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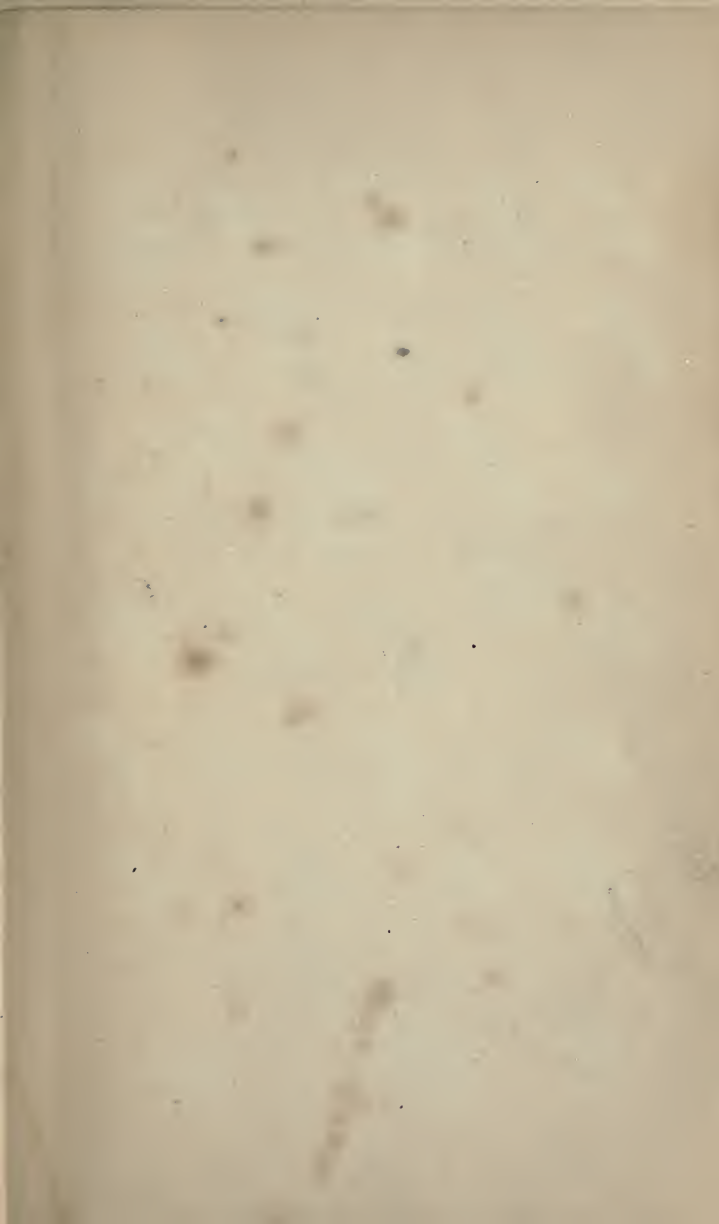
Beloved friends of the
and woods

Ludlow, 1854

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BOWLKER'S ART OF ANGLING.







BOWLKER'S, *Chas.*

ART OF ANGLING,

CONTAINING DIRECTIONS FOR

FLY-FISHING, TROLLING,

MAKING ARTIFICIAL FLIES, &c.

WITH A LIST OF THE MOST CELEBRATED FISHING
STATIONS IN NORTH WALES.

"Celate cibis uncos fallacibus hamos."

Ovid.

A NEW EDITION, REVISED.

LUDLOW:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY R. JONES, BROAD STREET.

LONDON: LONGMAN, BROWN, & CO.

1854.

Sport

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DESCRIPTION OF THE FRONTISPIECE.

- No. 1. Red Fly.
2. Blue Dun.
3. March Brown.
4. Cowdung Fly.
5. Stone Fly.
6. Granam, or Green Tail.
7. Spider Fly.
8. Black Gnat.
9. Black Caterpillar.
10. Little Iron Blue.
11. Yellow Sally.
12. Canon, or Down Hill Fly.
13. Shorn Fly, or Marlow Buzz.
14. Yellow May Fly, or Cadow.
15. Grey Drake.
16. Orl Fly.
17. Sky Blue.
18. Cadis Fly.
19. Fern Fly.
20. Red Spinner.
21. Blue Gnat.
- 22 & 23. Large Red and Black Ants.
24. Hazel Fly, or Welshman's Button.
25. Little Red and Black Ants.
26. Whirling Blue.
- 27, Little Pale Blue.
28. Willow Fly.
29. White Moth.
30. Red Palmer.



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INTRODUCTION.

THIS work has for a period of years enjoyed a degree of public approbation which few other similar publications can boast of, and it may be presumed has been practically useful in proportion to the fame it has acquired; it is, however, a truth universally acknowledged, that art, though continually advancing towards excellence, is never known to arrive at perfection. If this remark be true with respect to the higher branches of human knowledge, it is also applicable to the humble business of Angling, which, whether pursued for pleasure or profit, is yet capable, as an art, of constant and indefinite improvement.

Whatever merit we may attribute to the Author, his condition in life and circumscribed course of reading, prevented the possibility of his acquiring correct information on literary subjects; and it has

been found expedient to omit the puerilities of an antiquated and obsolete philosophy, to make room for extracts from modern writers, more useful and interesting.

In order to render this new edition of "Bowlker's Art of Angling" more deserving of general approbation, it has been carefully corrected, improved, and greatly enlarged; in every part of the work these improvements will be recognized and duly appreciated by the judicious angler; but especially in that part which treats on Fly-fishing.

This branch of the art is the most agreeable and important, and may be practised with the artificial fly so as to be freed from an objection sometimes brought against angling as a cruel and ungenerous amusement, deriving great part of its attendant pleasure from the sufferings of the miserable insect writhing in torment, impaled upon the hook. Now, though it will be admitted on all hands, that this objection has no proper bearing on the subject, so far as concerns the pleasure derived from it, yet as every humane angler will wish to remove from his favourite amusement such attendant circumstances as produce painful feelings on reflection, he will be induced to use the imitative in preference to the living bait. If the activity necessary to this mode be taken into consideration, it must be considered

more favourable to health than the tedious watchings of other modes of angling. But after all, it must be conceded, that different tastes have different sources of enjoyment: the grave and contemplative mind enjoys the still and peaceful scene; the cheerful and sprightly temper, is active even in its amusements. Angling suits either of these habits.

In adapting appropriate embellishments to suit the improved taste of the age, the publisher has considered utility as well as ornament, and the correct delineation of the fishes and flies will serve to guide the inexperienced practitioner, in some cases, where it is important to distinguish the species. It will be universally acknowledged that no book of written instructions can make a proficient in any art; yet a good book may be useful, and in some cases absolutely necessary, and it is hoped this little work will be found effective for every purpose of usefulness.

Every science has its rules and axioms, and the following hortatory remarks will be deemed of sufficient importance to be retained.

Patience is ever allowed to be a great virtue, and is one of the first requisites for an angler.

In an excursion to or from fishing, should you overheat yourself with walking, avoid small liquors and water as you would poison; a glass of wine,

brandy, or rum, is more likely to promote cooling effects, without danger of taking cold.

Whenever you begin to angle, wet the ends of the joints of your rod, to make them swell, which will prevent their loosening: and if you happen, with rain or otherwise, to wet your rod, so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrules round in the flame of a candle, and they will easily separate.

An angler should always be careful to keep out of sight of the fish, by standing as far from the bank as possible; but muddy water renders this caution unnecessary.

A judicious angler should observe that his amusement must be avoided in a strong east or cold north wind, as both are unfriendly to sport. Also, after a long drought; in the middle of days that are excessively hot and bright; when there has been a white frost in the morning; in days of high wind; in places where they have been long washing sheep; upon the sudden rising of clouds that precede rain; and on days following dark, windy nights.

In ponds, angle near the fords where cattle go to drink; and in rivers, angle for Bream in the deepest and most quiet parts; for Eels, under trees hanging over banks; for Chub, in deep shaded holes; for Perch, in scours; for Roach, in winter,

in the deeps, at all other times where you angle for Perch ; and for Trout in quick streams.

When you have hooked a fish, never suffer it to run out with the line ; but keep the rod bent, and as nearly perpendicular as you can ; by this method the top plies to every pull the fish makes, and you prevent the straining of the line.

Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking hold of the line, but either put a landing net under it, or your hat. You may, in fly-fishing, lay hold of the line to draw the fish to you, but this must be done with caution.

The silk for tying on hooks and other fine work must be very small ; use it double, and wax it with shoemaker's wax ; should the wax be too stiff, temper it with tallow.

If for strong fishing you use grass, which, when you can get it fine is to be preferred to gut, remember always to soak it an hour in water before using ; this will make it tough, and prevent it from breaking.

Before fixing the loop of gut to the hook, in order to make a fly, singe the end of it to prevent its drawing ; do the same with hair, to which at any time you whip a hook.

Make flies in warm weather only, for in cold the waxed silk will not draw.

In rainy weather, or when the season for angling is over, repair whatever damage your tackle has sustained.

Never regard what bunglers and slovens tell you, but believe that neatness in your tackle, and a masterly hand in all your work are absolutely necessary.

As dry feet are conducive to health, we have copied an excellent receipt for the angler's use, which will render boots or shoes completely water-proof: "drying oil, one pint; bee's wax, two ounces; turpentine, two ounces; Burgundy pitch, one ounce.—Melt these over a slow fire, and then add a few drops of essential oil of lavender or thyme: with this your boots or shoes are to be rubbed with a brush, either in the sun, or at some distance from the fire. The application must be repeated as often as the boots become dry again, until they are fully saturated."

Lastly, those who value health will not begin the delightful recreation of angling till March; although, in some years, if the weather be open and mild February may afford more diversion.

ART OF ANGLING.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL RIVERS IN ENGLAND.

THE THAMES is the mighty king of all the British rivers, superior to most in beauty, and to all in importance; it takes its rise from a copious spring called Thames Head, about two miles south-west of Cirencester. It widens considerably on approaching Lechlade, where it is joined by the Lech, the Coln, and the Isis, all which rise in the Cotswold Hill; continuing its course to the south-east by Wallingford to Reading, it forms a boundary to the counties of Berks, Bucks, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, and Kent; and joins the Medway at the Nore, in the mouth of the British ocean.

THE MEDWAY is by far the most important river of any in Kent, except the Thames. It rises on the borders of Surrey and Sussex, somewhat north of East Grinstead, and takes a north-east course to Tunbridge and Maidstone; winding still with various curves eastward, it passes Rochester and Chatham, and finally turns to the north and enters the Nore

under the fort of Sheerness, near the mouth of the Thames. This river is remarkable for its extent and safety in harbouring the royal navy of Great Britain.

THE SEVERN is the principal river in Wales, and second only to the Thames in England, belonging alternately to both countries. The chief source of it is in a small lake on the eastern side of Plinlimon hill, not far from the heads of the rivers Wye, and Rhydol; it flows to the south-east, through a wild district, towards Llanidloes; it then turns to the north-east, between hills, and approaches Newtown, where it assumes its proper name of Severn. From thence its course is almost due north, through the delightful vales of Montgomeryshire; after making a considerable compass, it turns abruptly to the south-east, and almost encircles the town of Shrewsbury, and pursues the same direction till it has passed Colebrook Dale: soon after which it flows southward to Bewdley, Worcester, and Gloucester. Except a large semicircle which the Severn makes at Newnham, its course is chiefly to the south-west below Gloucester, till it assumes the title of the Bristol Channel, expanding and insensibly losing itself in the Atlantic ocean, between the Land's End of Cornwall and the extreme point of Pembrokeshire.

THE WYE, though not the largest, may certainly be called the most beautiful of the rivers of

South Wales ; it rises on the south side of Plinlimmon hill, on the borders of Montgomeryshire and Cardiganshire, being rather to the south of the source of the Severn. In its course it inclines gradually to the east, and separates Brecknockshire from Radnorshire ; when past the Black Mountain it flows eastward to Hereford, Ross, and Monmouth ; from whence it proceeds south till it unites itself with the Severn below Chepstow, thus forming part of the Bristol Channel.

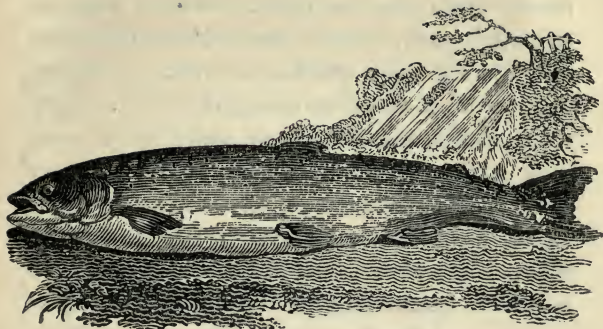
THE TRENT is a river which pervades some of the most fertile districts in the kingdom ; it rises in the hill near Newcastle-under-Line, in Staffordshire, adjoining to the borders of Cheshire. In its course it divides Leicestershire from Derbyshire, and penetrates through the centre of Nottinghamshire ; at length it reaches the borders of Yorkshire, and a few miles from Gainsborough it joins with the æstuary of the Northern Ouse to form the turbulent river Humber.

THE HUMBER is formed by the Trent, the Northern Ouse, the Derwent, and several other smaller streams. By the late inland navigation it has a communication with the Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Severn, Thames, Avon, &c. which navigation, including its windings, extends above five hundred miles in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, York,

Lancaster, Westmorland, Chester, Stafford, Warwick, Leicester, Oxford, and Worcester. The Humber divides Yorkshire from Lincolnshire, and falls into the German ocean near Holderness.

AVON, the name of four rivers in England; viz. 1, rising in Leicestershire, runs south-west by Warwick and Evesham, and falls into the Severn at Tewkesbury; 2, in Monmouthshire; 3, rising in Wiltshire, coasts the edge of the New Forest, and enters the English Channel at Christ Church Bay, in Hampshire; and 4, the Lower Avon, which rises near Tetbury, in Gloucestershire, and running west to Bath, becomes navigable; continues its course to Bristol, and falls into the Severn north-west of that city.

THE TEME, which rises in Radnorshire, flows through Knighton, Leintwardine, Ludlow, and Tenbury, and falls into the Severn at Powick, near Worcester. This river is one of the most celebrated in the kingdom for its Trout and Greyling; at Leintwardine is the far famed stream alluded to by Sir Humphrey Davy in his *Salmonia*, or Days of Fly-fishing.



SALMON.

THE Salmon, so highly esteemed for the delicacy of its flavour, and so important an article in a commercial view, is chiefly an inhabitant of the northern regions; they will ascend such of our rivers as have communication with the sea for many miles; force themselves against the most rapid streams, and spring with amazing agility over cataracts of several feet in height. An inhabitant of Berwick-upon-Tweed, gives the following account of them:—"In the months of October and November, the Salmon begin to press up the river as far as they can reach, in order to spawn; when that time approaches, the male and female unite in forming a proper receptacle

for it in the sand, or gravel about the depth of eighteen inches; in this the female deposits the spawn, which they afterwards carefully cover up. The spawn lies buried till spring, if not disturbed by violent floods, but the Salmon hasten to the sea as soon as they are able, in order to recover their strength, for after spawning they become very lean, and are then called by the name of Kippers. When the Salmon first enter the rivers, they are observed to have a great many small animals adhering to them, especially about their gills; these are the *Lerneæ Salmoneæ*, or Salmon louse of Linnæus, and are signs that the fish are in high season; soon after the Salmon have left the sea, the *Lerneæ* die and drop off; and when they have been about a month in the river, and lie under banks, roots, or stones, the fresh water lice creep on to them, and force them to get to sea again to be freed from them, which the salt water does effectually. In this manner they will change the fresh for the salt water several times in the course of the summer.

In the beginning of March the spawn begins to exclude the young; which gradually increase to the length of four or five inches, and are then called Samlets, or Salmon fry. About the beginning of May the river is full of them; it seems to be all alive, and there is no having an idea of their

numbers without seeing them; but a seasonable flood then hurries them all to the sea, scarce any being left in the river. About the middle of June, the earliest of the fry begin to drop, as it were, into the river again from the sea, at that time being about twelve or fourteen inches in length; and by a gradual progress increase in number and size, till the end of July, when they are termed Grilse. In the beginning of August they lessen in number, but increase in size, some being six or eight pounds in weight.

All fishermen agree that they never find any food in the stomach of this fish. Perhaps during the spawning time they may entirely neglect their food; and that they return to sea lank and lean, and come from it in good condition. It is evident that, at times, their food is both fish and worms, for the angler uses both with good success; as well as a large gaudy artificial fly, which they probably mistake for a gay *Libellula*, or Dragon Fly.

In the river Tweed, about the month of July, the capture of Salmon is astonishing, often a boat load, and sometimes nearly two, are taken in a tide; in one instance more than seven hundred fish were caught at a single haul of the net. From fifty to a hundred at a haul are very common. The season for fishing commences in the Tweed in February,

and ends on Old Michaelmas day. The chief English rivers in which Salmon are now caught are the Tyne, the Trent, the Severn, the Wye, and the Tweed. A young Salmon under two pounds in weight is called a Salmon Peel, and a larger one a Grilse. Salmon cannot be eaten too fresh; and is very unwholesome when stale.

The general length of the Salmon is from two and a half to three feet, but sometimes more: the male is principally distinguished by the curvature of the jaws; both the upper and lower mandible bending towards each other, more or less in different individuals, and at different seasons. The general colour of both sexes is a silvery grey, of a much darker cast on the back; the sides of the male are marked with numerous small, irregular, dusky and copper-coloured spots, while those of the female exhibit only several rather large, distant, roundish spots of a dark colour; the male is somewhat longer, and of a more slender shape than the female."

Having thus briefly premised the general character and size of the Salmon, it is necessary to give some account of its haunts and feeding-times, and then proceed to the artifices best adapted for its capture. The principal season for the angler to follow his sport is from June till September.

Salmon do not stay long in a place, neither do

they like most other fish, lie near the river's edge, but swim in the deepest parts, and usually in the middle, near the ground. Their prime feeding time is from eight till eleven o'clock in the morning, and from three in the afternoon till sunset. When on feed Salmon are generally to be found at the foot of a strong stream, which terminates in a whirlpool, or eddy.

The primary and most important articles with which the angler should be provided, are, a rod, reel, reel-line, cast-line, artificial flies, and various strong' gut bottoms adapted to the different modes of taking Salmon.

The length of the rod should be from sixteen to twenty feet, which, however, may be regulated according to the breadth of the river in which the angler pursues his amusement. The reel, which should be large, is a most material appendage to the rod, and is made of brass; it must be constructed with the utmost nicety, and rendered capable of the swiftest circumvolutions. The line, which is to be fastened to the reel, may be composed either of strong silk, or twisted horse hair without knots, and from fifty to eighty yards in length; at the end of this line must be a loop, to which you can attach a cast line of a convenient length for throwing (say ten or twelve yards), this cast-line must be

about thirty or forty hairs thick at the top, and gradually diminish as it approaches the gut bottom to which the flies or other baits are affixed. The bottom must be made of strong twisted gut.

The artificial flies should generally be of large dimensions, and of a gaudy glittering colour; the Dragon Fly, and King's Fisher, are particularly adapted for Salmon fishing (both of which are described in this volume), although Salmon will take almost any of the flies used for Trout, if made larger than usual. The angler should imitate principally the natural flies found on such rivers where Salmon abound; but he may safely indulge his fancy, rather than depart without a bite; for many succeed with the most monstrous and capricious baits of this gaudy kind. In most places the artificial fly is the only bait used, being far superior to any other.

A raw cockle, or muscle, taken out of the shell, prawns, minnows, and worms have also been recommended as Salmon baits: the mode of angling with these is to cast the line, which must be totally unencumbered with shot, into some shallow which approximates to the edge of a hole of considerable depth, permitting the bait to be carried in by the current. The line should always be thrown across the river, and on the off side from the spot where you expect a fish to rise. When you imagine that

a fish has taken the bait, be cautious in giving it time to pouch it, that is, to swallow it fairly and securely; after this fix the hook firmly by a gentle twitch. On the first sensation of pain, the fish will plunge and spring with great violence, and use every endeavour of strength and cunning to effect its escape; it will then, perhaps, run away with a considerable length of line, which is to be kept in a gently relaxed situation, so that it may always yield with facility to its obstinate resistance. If it becomes sullen and quiet in the water, rouse it gently by throwing in a few stones; and when it again commences resistance, do not be too eager in checking its career, but let it gradually exhaust its strength, follow it down the stream, and at every opportunity keep winding up the line, until you approach it in a wearied state; then take it softly by the gills out of the water. The size of the hook, No. 2 or 3.

Salmon take little fish and worms best on their first arrival in the fresh water, and flies from that time until the end of September. Some anglers troll for Salmon with the same baits, and in the same manner as directed for Pike, and occasionally meet with success.

There is scarcely any time unless when it thunders, or when the water is thick with mud, but

you may chance to tempt the Salmon to rise to an artificial fly. But the most propitious and critical moments are undoubtedly when, clearing after a flood, the water has turned to a light whey, or rather brown colour; when the wind blows pretty fresh, approaching almost to a mackarel gale (if not from the north), against the stream or course of the river; when the sun shines through showers, or when the cloudy rack runs fast and thick, and at intervals discovers the fine blue ether from above. In these situations of the water, and of the weather, you may always depend upon excellent sport.

The Thames Salmon are reckoned to exceed in quality those of any other river; but those in the rivers Severn and Wye are excellent in their kind, and are first in season of any in England.

The young SALMON FRY, or SAMLETS, are extremely voracious, and in April and May will afford the young angler excellent diversion, as he will frequently have a fish at every fly at the same throw. Although they are delicious eating, a moment's reflection of the injury done to the river, by the destruction of so many young fry, ought to deter the angler from continuing his sport when he finds a shoal of them.

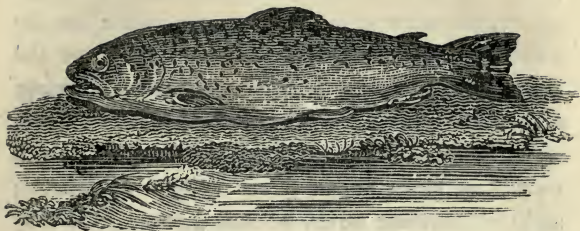
GREY SALMON are a distinct species from the common Salmon; their heads are larger in proportion, in the jaws are four rows of teeth, and on the tongue are eight teeth; the back and sides are of a deep grey with purple spots, the belly silvery, the tail even at the end. They are strong fish, and do not ascend the fresh water till August, when they rush up the rivers with great violence, and are very rarely taken by angling. They appear in the river Esk, in Cumberland, from July to September, and are then in spawn. This is supposed to be the fish called by the name of Sewin, or Shewin, in South Wales.

The Gravel LAST-SPRING is supposed by some to be the fry of the Salmon, but which is a distinct species; the rivers Severn and Wye abound with this fish. It spawns in the month of August, and affords the angler excellent diversion with the long line. The Red Ant is a very killing fly, and all the flies may be used with success during their proper seasons.

SALMON TROUT are greatly allied, in point of general appearance, to the Salmon, but rarely of equal size: in colour purplish or violet, with the head and whole body thickly marked with small

round dark or blackish spots, surrounded by a paler circle; scales rather small. They are natives of the European seas, passing, like Salmon, into rivers to deposit their spawn. Their flesh is similar in colour, and of equal delicacy with the Salmon. Wherever this fish is to be found, it will afford the angler good sport; the same baits are to be used as directed for Salmon and Trout fishing.





TROUT.

THE Trout admits of considerable variety as to the tinge both of its ground colour and spots. Its general length, when full grown, is from twelve to fifteen inches: its colour yellowish grey, darker or browner upon the back, and marked on the sides with distant round bright red spots, each surrounded by a tinge of pale bluish grey; the belly has a white or silvery cast; the fins are of a pale purplish brown, the head rather large, and the scales very fine. The female has a brighter and more beautiful appearance than the male.

In general the Trout prefers clear, cold, and briskly-running waters, with a stony or gravelly bottom, it swims with rapidity, and like the Salmon, springs occasionally to a very considerable height in order to surmount any obstacle in its course. It generally spawns in October, and at that time

gets among the roots of trees, and under large stones, in order to deposit its eggs, which are far less numerous than those of other fish; yet the Trout admits of very considerable increase, owing, no doubt, to the circumstance of most of the voracious kinds of fishes avoiding waters of so cold a nature as those which Trout delight to inhabit; and their increase would be still greater, were they not themselves of a voracious disposition, frequently preying upon each other.

The merit of the Trout, as an article of food, is too well known to require particular notice: in this respect however those are most esteemed which are natives of the clearest waters: the flesh of some is white, some red, and some yellowish: the two last are accounted the best, yet all three sorts are sometimes found in the same river, and in places but a short distance from each other.

The Trout is of more sudden growth than any fish except the Salmon, but it does not live to a great age; the duration of its life is believed to be about eight or ten years; when full grown, it shortly afterwards diminishes in body, and its head increases in size, until its death. It is best in season in the months of May and June, but is considered good from the end of February until August, when Greyling fishing commences. In

October the Trout retires to the deepest parts of the river, where it continues until the return of Spring; and in February, if the weather be warm, it leaves its winter quarters to cleanse and recreate itself in the shallow streams: and as it gains strength, pursues its course up the river, frequently changing its position.

The Trout generally feeds in the deepest parts of large and swift streams near the sides; and very commonly lies under hollow banks, among the roots of trees, behind great stones that cause an eddy in the water, at the junction of two streams, the tails of currents, and below bridges and weirs. In March, if the weather be open and mild, and the water clear, angle with the worm, or troll with the minnow or kill-devil, in the morning; and towards twelve o'clock the Blue Dun and March Brown flies make their appearance; when, of course, you will discontinue the former baits, and commence fly-fishing, which will generally prove successful until about three o'clock, when the flies begin to disappear from the river. In the evening again use the worm or minnow. As the season advances the flies daily appear earlier and continue later, and may be fished with accordingly.

In fishing for Trout with the worm observe these directions; the rod must be strong, with a

pliant top, and from twelve to fifteen feet in length, the line should be about a foot longer; but it is best at all times, and for all kinds of angling, to use a reel, and about twenty yards of reel line, in order that you may make the casting line longer or shorter at pleasure; the bottom must be comprised of two yards or more of fine round gut, and No. 5 or 6 hook; a float is quite unnecessary. Bait with either one lob-worm, two small red worms, or two brandlings; all of which are required to be well scoured and very lively; for, a Trout will not touch a worm that is half dead, or in any way mangled or dirty. Put the lob-worm on the hook in the following manner: enter the point of the hook about a quarter of an inch below its head, and carry it down to within the same distance of its tail, keeping the point of the hook completely hid in the worm. If two small red worms or brandlings be used, run the point of the hook in at the head of the first, and bring it out about three parts down its body, then draw it carefully up over the arming, or whipping of the hook, while you put on the other; put the point of the hook into the second somewhat below the middle, and carry it near to the head, then draw the first worm down to join it.

In angling with the worm it is necessary to put as many shot upon the line, about nine inches

from the hook, as will readily sink the bait; because, if the stream be rapid, the bait will be carried away without touching the ground, consequently there is but little chance of a Trout taking it. While thus fishing with a running line, keep as far from the water as you can, and let the bait be carried down by the stream into the haunts mentioned on page 25; and when a fish begins to bite, do not strike the first time you feel a slight tug, but rather slacken the line; and when you feel one or more sharp tugs together, then strike smartly; if it is a heavy fish do not be too eager to land it.

When maggots are used, which are generally considered the best of all ground baits, a rod rather more flexible than the one described for worm-fishing is necessary; the length of line should be proportioned to the river or place in which you angle; the line cannot be too fine; the hook No. 7 or 8; and, for this purpose, a small goose-quill float is required. A few maggots should be thrown in occasionally for the fish to feed upon, as, when angling for Trout, all other kinds of fish are taken with this bait, except Salmon and Pike.

The natural flies best adapted for dibbing, or bobbing at the bush, are the May fly, or Yellow Caddow, the Grey Drake, the Orl, and the Canon, or Down-hill fly; all of which are to be found on

bushes near to the river side, in the months of May and June. The line should be from two to three yards long, and it is best to be made of hard twisted silk (which can be purchased at any of the tackle shops), with a hook No. 6, or two hooks No. 8, tied back to back; one or two flies may be used at a time. The method of dibbing with the natural fly is to drop the line over bushes, segs, rushes, or in holes and curls where no other baits can be used; it is requisite to imitate as nearly as possible the manner in which the flies rise off and fall upon the water, and to be cautious when you see a fish approach, which it does very suddenly, not to snatch the bait away.

The following method of taking Trout, is, by some experienced anglers, much esteemed:—Make a pair of wings of the feather of a landrail, and on the bend of the hook put one or two cadis; the head of the cadis should be kept close to the wings. Angle with a rod about five yards long, the line three, and the hook No. 3 or 4. Let the bait float down the stream just below the surface, then gently draw it up again a little irregularly by shaking the rod, and if there be a fish in the place it will be sure to take it. If two cadis be used with the wings put the hook in at the head and out at the neck of the first, and quite through the other from head to tail. Two

brandlings, or small red worms, may be fished with in the same way.

It is highly necessary, when angling for Trout in streams where Salmon are to be found, to use stronger tackle than might otherwise be advisable.

TROLLING FOR TROUT.

This kind of angling is generally practised from the middle of March till August; at its commencement it will kill fish from eleven o'clock till three; and when the summer is advanced, and the rivers are become low and fine, it is only to be used very early in the morning, or late in the evening, unless the sun be much clouded. The following extract is from COL. HAWKER'S much admired work, entitled "Instructions to Young Sportsmen."

"TROLLING, or spinning a minnow, is the other most general mode of Trout fishing; or, I may almost say, Trout poaching. It is, however, very rarely done in a proper manner, though every man, as a matter of course, upholds his own system. I, like all the rest, did the same, till after fancying for years that I could challenge any one, was beat and laughed at by a Trout killing divine. Now, however, I have not only got master of his plan, against

which all others that I have ever seen, read of, or heard of, had no chance whatever; but have remedied a few trifling defects that it had, and put Chevalier in possession of the improvement. The great advantage of it is, that it takes the Trout when they run and bite short, by means of fly hooks, that play round the other, on a separate branch of line; so that I have often killed three or four brace of Trout, without the minnow being in the least injured, or even touched by the fish. To describe the tackle properly, without giving a plate of it, would be difficult, if not impossible.* After all, however, knowing how to bait the hook is the chief art; and even after being shown, requires practice on the part of the fisherman who adopts it. Supposing, however, that some angler might have confidence enough in what I have said to get a set of this tackle from Chevalier, I will endeavour to direct him as to baiting it. After choosing a white-bellied minnow, of rather small size, and hardening

* The bottom consists of two lengths of gut, the one shorter than the other; to the shortest piece a No 1 hook is attached, and to the other a triangle of three No. 7 hooks, tied back to back, to hang about three inches below the larger one when baited; another triangle of three hooks, tied to the same gut, should be suspended at the side of the minnow. The bottom must be affixed to the line by a small box swivel; the plummet, or cap alluded to, is a hollow bit of lead, which, when drawn upon the head of the minnow, will cover about the half of it.

it in bran for an hour or two, first draw back the plummet or cap, and put the large hook into the minnow's mouth, and out through the right gill, taking care not to tear the mouth, or any part of the bait; then draw the line three or four inches to you, so as to be able to get the hook back again into its mouth. Then take the minnow between the finger and thumb in the left hand, and the large hook in the right hand, and run the hook all down its back, close to the bone, to the very end of the fish, and let it come out about the centre of the tail fin. Then with your right hand pull the minnow out as straight as it will lie, and press it into natural form with the finger and thumb. Afterwards nip off the upper half of the tail fin, in order to prevent a counteraction to the spinning of the minnow.

“ Having done this, draw down your plummet, or cap, again, and see that your branch line falls smoothly by the side of your bait line, and if not, rub it with Indian rubber till it does. Your hook is then ready for action, and action indeed it may be called if properly done. I should observe, that a new gut seldom spins the minnow so well as one that is half worn out (by reason of the stiffness which encircles the minnow's gill), therefore, ten minutes soaking in water, and sometimes a little

hard friction of the gut, just above the large hook, may at first be required; besides the working it with Indian rubber. So much for this plan; there may be many better; but all I can say is, that I have not yet seen one fit to be named with it.

“The rod for trolling should be from eighteen to twenty feet long, and made as light as possible, though neither too pliable nor too heavy. This rod, of course, requires two hands; no matter therefore where the reel is placed. If the top is too stiff, you strain a fish's mouth so much as to run the risk of breaking out his hold, which is nine times in ten on one of the three small fly hooks. But if the top is too pliant, the fish will frequently make his escape on first being pricked. Here, therefore, as in all things, the medium is best. A minnow must, of course, be thrown under handed, and the line got well on the swing before it is sent out. You should throw it till it comes to its end, and then, by drawing in the hand, give it a little check, so that it shall be laid delicately in the water, and not thrown in with a splash. The very instant your minnow is in the water, begin drawing it at one unvaried pace, down stream, and then towards you, till near enough to require a fresh throw; and in this as well as fly-fishing, never keep trying too long in the same place.

“ If a fish comes after your minnow, never stop it, or in any way alter the pace, or he will most likely be off again directly; though, if you can tow your minnow into a rougher place, without giving it any sudden motion, the fish will most likely follow it there, and be still more easily deceived than in the smoother water. To get your bait, use a silk casting net, and remember, that the chief art in throwing it is to hurl the right hand well round horizontally, instead of inclining it upwards. Keep your bait, with bran, in any thing but tin or metal, which is liable to heat in warm weather. This, I believe, is all that need be said on the best mode of Trolling.

“ There are generally known three other modes of Trolling. The first is the diving minnow, which is precisely on the same plan as the gorge hook for Pike. This answers well in very deep holes, where you may frequently kill Trout when the sun is too bright for the more common mode of Trolling. On this plan, you must, of course, loosen the line, and allow the Trout some time to pouch his bait. The second is the artificial minnow, which is the worst of all; because it does not, in general, spin so well; and particularly, because it is too frequently made of hard materials, on which a fish, unless very hungry, will seldom close his mouth enough to get

hooked. The third is called the kill-devil, and although, in appearance, not near so like a real fish as the other, yet it spins so well, and is so much softer in the mouth, that it answers, I think, the best of all plans, when you cannot procure the natural bait. Any good fishing-tackle shop will furnish these articles, and therefore it would be a waste of time and of paper to give a minute description of them."

The following is the best way to dress a Trout.—
"Directly it is caught, crimp it, with about four cuts on each side, taking care to let the blade of the knife be in a sloping direction, so as to make every incision rather circular, and parallel to the gills; instead of having the blade of the knife perpendicular, by which you would cut too much across the fleaks, and the fish would not be near so firm. Then put the fish in cold spring water, or pump on it for about ten minutes; having done this, put the fish away, not in water, but on stones; or in short, in the coldest place you can find. When dinner is nearly ready, clean the Trout, leaving the scales on, and then pump on it for a few minutes more. Then have a kettle of water with a large handful of salt dissolved in it, and when the water properly boils, put the fish in; and an average sized Trout (say one of a pound weight), will be done in about ten minutes, and should then be sent immediately to table."

The best criterion to judge whether a Trout is in season or not, is by the bright and silver-like appearance of the scales, or by the smallness and tightness of the vent; for the better the Trout is in season, the smaller will be the vent-hole, which is formed just before the under, or belly fin.

Before you send Trout on a journey, always have them cleaned and gutted, and let them be laid on their backs, and closely packed in a willow basket with dry straw. Packing in damp grass or rushes is apt to ferment, and therefore liable to spoil the fish.

The following extraordinary instance of the growth of Trout has occurred in a pond belonging to H. Dixon, Esq. at Ashford near Brecon:—Five Trout, weighing together not more than a pound and a half in October, 1826, on being taken out in August, 1828, were found to weigh twenty pounds and a half, the largest being five pounds and a half.

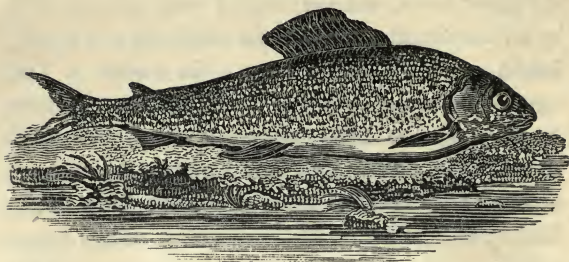
There is in many rivers, especially in such as empty themselves into the sea, a little Trout called the Skegger, which will readily take any small fly, and will bite at the worm and maggot as fast and as freely as minnows; it never exceeds the size of a Herring.

THE ALPINE TROUT, or GILT CHARR, abounds in the lakes of Ulswater and Winandermere, in Westmoreland, and in the lakes of Llyn Quellyn, near the foot of Snowdon, in North Wales; it is in length about twelve inches; its colour silvery, with the back strongly tinged with olive-green, and the sides thickly freckled with very minute bright-red and blackish specks; its head very large, and scales very small: on the whole it is similar to the common Trout, only rather broader. Those which inhabit the clearest and coldest waters are observed to be of the richest colours. It is a fish of great delicacy of flavour, and much esteemed as food.

The Alpine Trout may be successfully angled for with any of the Trout baits, but more particularly with the fly.

THE GWINIAD inhabits the same lakes as the Alpine Trout, and is to be found in some of the northern rivers; it resembles the common Trout in shape, but is thicker in proportion; its length is from ten to twelve inches; the head is small and very taper in front, the upper lip extending considerably beyond the lower, so that the mouth, which is small, appears placed beneath; the general colour of it is a silvery grey, with a dusky tinge on

the upper parts, and the base of each scale marked by a dusky speck; the fins are pale brown, the tail forked; and the scales large. In rivers, at the time of spawning, which is in December, it forces its way up the most violent streams, generally advancing in two ranges, and forming in front an acute angle, the whole being conducted by a single fish. The flesh of the Gwiniad has an insipid taste, and must be eaten soon after it is caught. This fish is to be angled for with the same baits, and tackle, as directed for Trout or Greyling.



GREYLING.

THE Greyling is of a very elegant form, and when full grown is about sixteen inches in length ; it chiefly abounds in the rivers of Derbyshire and Yorkshire, in the Teme near Ludlow, and in the Lugg and other streams near Leominster. In shape it resembles the Trout, but is rather longer and more slender, particularly near the tail ; the head is small, with protuberant eyes, the irides of which are silvery, speckled with yellow ; the mouth is of a middle size, and the upper jaw the largest ; the teeth are very minute, seated in the jaws and roof of the mouth, and feel like a fine file ; the head is dusky, the covers of the gills are of a glossy green, yet when in prime perfection, these parts are almost black ; the back is of a dusky green, inclining to blue ; the sides are of a beautiful silvery

grey, with numerous longitudinal dark stripes; the scales are large, and the lower edges dusky, forming straight rows from the head to the tail, which is much forked; the large dorsal fin is spotted, the other fins are plain, and of a brownish cast.

The largest Greyling ever caught in England was taken at Ludlow; it measured above half-a-yard in length, and weighed four pounds and a half.

The Greyling is a very swift swimmer, disappearing like the transient passage of a shadow, from whence is derived its ancient name of Umbra, or Umber. It spawns in April and May, and is then to be found in gentle gliding streams; it is a voracious fish, rising freely at the fly, and will very eagerly take both worms and maggots; it naturally feeds upon all kinds of water insects, and the roe of other fish. It is much esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh, which is white, firm, and of a fine flavour; and is considered in the highest season in the depth of winter. When first taken out of the water it has a very peculiar smell, which is said to be occasioned by its feeding upon water thyme.

This fish, generally speaking, inhabits the same streams as the Trout, and it frequently happens that, in fly-fishing, the angler will take both at the same stand; and sometimes, when two or three flies are fished with, one of each may be taken at the

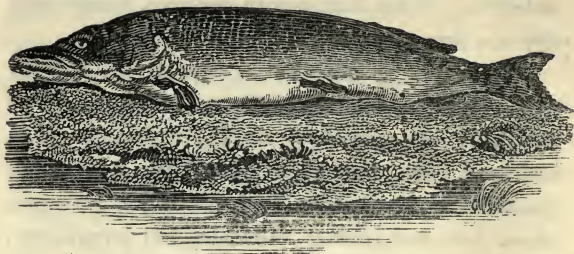
same throw. The Greyling is much more simple, and therefore bolder, than the Trout, and will rise several times provided it does not feel the hook.

The principal months to angle for Greyling are September, October, and November; and then, if the water be low and fine, and the day warm and cloudy, the three autumn flies, viz. the Whirling Blue, the Pale Blue, and the Willow, will be found very killing.

During the three months above mentioned, the chief haunts of the smaller Greyling are in glides; but the large ones generally resort to deeper water, into which a gentle stream falls; the former may readily be taken with the fly, but the latter must be angled for with the worm or maggot; when these baits are used, the tackle should be of the finest description, the bottom to be at least two yards of gut, leaded with two shot about a foot from the hook; a small goose-quill float; and a hook No. 5 or 6 for worms, and No. 8 or 9 for maggots is required; the bait to lie on, or very near to the ground. Strike the instant the float descends, and when a fish is hooked, be sure work it with caution, as the hold in its mouth easily gives way; you must also endeavour to prevent it from rubbing its nose against the ground, which it is very apt to do; but when fairly hooked, like the Chub, it is easily

subdued. When fishing with maggots, occasionally throw a few in to draw the fish together.

The Greyling may also be caught with cabbage grubs, grasshoppers, and codbaits, either natural or artificial; the method of angling with these is to sink and draw, that is, to permit the bait to fall gradually to the bottom, and drawing it up again about two feet, rather suddenly, but irregularly; this plan may also be adopted when fishing with the maggot, but the line requires to be heavier leaded; the rod and line to be of equal length, the hook, No. 5 or 6. Several other kinds of fish may be taken with these baits.



PIKE.

THE Pike is to be found in most of the rivers, lakes, and ponds in England, and is known to grow to be upwards of thirty pounds in weight. In the northern countries of Europe it grows to a very considerable size; four or five feet not being an uncommon length, and some have been taken eight feet or more.

The head of the Pike is very flat, the eyes are small and of a gold tinge; the upper jaw is broad and shorter than the lower, which turns up a little at the end, and is marked with minute punctures; the teeth are very sharp, disposed not only in the point of the upper jaw, but in both sides of the lower, in the roof of the mouth, and it has often three rows upon the tongue, and even down to

the orifice of the stomach, the gape of the jaws is very wide, although loosely connected; they have on each side an additional bone like the jaw of a viper, which renders them capable of greater distension when the prey is swallowed; the body is long, the back broad and almost square when in its best state; the belly is always white.

The usual colour of it is a pale olive grey, deepest on the back, and is marked on the sides by several yellowish spots or patches; when in its highest perfection the colours are more brilliant, the sides being of a bright olive, with yellow spots, the back dark green, and the belly silvery.

The voracity of the Pike is commemorated by all ichthyological writers; it has been poetically styled the wolf of fishes, and tyrant of the watery plain; and, in fact, in proportion to its strength and celerity, it is the most active and ravenous of fresh water fish. It will attack every fish less than itself, and has been known to choke itself in attempting to swallow one of its own species which proved too large a morsel. It is immaterial of what species the animal it pursues appears to be, all are indiscriminately devoured; so that every fish owes its safety to its minuteness, its celerity, or its courage; nor does the Pike confine itself to feed on fish and frogs, it will draw down water rats and

young ducks as they are swimming about, and even attack the legs of persons who are bathing. "I have been assured (says Walton) by my friend Mr. Seagrave, who keeps tame otters, that he has known a Pike, in extreme hunger, fight with one of his otters for a Carp that the otter had caught, and was then bringing out of the water." A Mr. Plott, of Oxford, has recorded the following highly singular anecdote. "At Lord Gower's canal at Trentham, a Pike seized the head of a swan as she was feeding under water, and gorged so much of it as killed them both; the servants, perceiving the swan with its head under water for a longer time than usual, took boat, and found both swan and Pike dead."

On Tuesday, October 21st, 1823, a Pike weighing fifty pounds was taken out of the lake at Clumber, the seat of the duke of Newcastle; its death was supposed to have been occasioned by endeavouring to swallow a Carp, as one was taken out of its throat weighing fourteen pounds.

August, 1828.—As Mr. Scroggs and Mr. Wild, of Kidlington, in Oxfordshire, were trolling for Pike in that neighbourhood, one of these gentlemen had a bite, and shortly afterwards his companion had the same luck. After the two sportsmen had given the usual law, they reeled up their lines, and to their

surprise, found they had both caught the same fish, which was a very fine Pike, weighing upwards of five pounds. The trollers conjectured that after the Pike had pounced the first bait, he swam up the stream, and on his return seized the other. There was an amicable dispute as to each other's right to the prize; but it terminated over a glass of grog, and Mr. Wild bagged the voracious animal.

The smaller kind of fish are said to show the same uneasiness and detestation at the presence of a Pike, as the smaller birds do at the sight of a hawk; and when the Pike, as is often the case, lies dormant at the surface of the water, they are observed to swim around in vast numbers, and in the greatest anxiety.

The Pike spawns in March and April, according to the warmth or coldness of the season, among weeds near the water's edge; the young are supposed to be of very quick growth; the first year it arrives at the length of from six to ten inches; the second, to twelve or fifteen; and the third to eighteen or twenty. An overgrown Pike is called a Luce, but the flesh of a Pike when about two feet long is to be preferred, being far more delicious and grateful to the palate. It is in its prime in September and October, but is considered good from Midsummer till Christmas. The longevity of this fish is very

remarkable; it is asserted that it will live to be upwards of a hundred years old.

The Pike is a very solitary fish, and is partial to the deepest and most obscure parts of the river, which has sand or gravel upon the bottom, generally taking its station near the side; it is also frequently found in quiet retired places, where the water is rather shallow than deep, forming a bend or bay in rivers, especially if the sides of such places are shaded with tall segs or bull-rushes; among these the Pike lies, particularly during floods, a foot or two below the surface, with its nose just projecting from the rushes or segs, looking up the stream for whatever food may come within its reach. But when the river is of a proper colour, it goes occasionally, towards the dusk of evening, some yards from the haunts above-mentioned in search of food; particularly to fords or shallows where small fish frequent.

From the time of spawning till August, Pike are not in a vigorous state, appearing more inclined to doze and bask in the sun near the top of the water, than to feed; at such times a snare is more effectual than the most tempting bait the angler can select; and if such be placed so close as to touch its nose, it will generally draw back from it; and should he persevere in placing the bait near it, it will plunge

away in anger. In fact, Pike are longer than any other fish in recovering their health, flesh, and appetite, after the act of procreation; indeed, but few will take a bait freely, and fewer still are fit for table before September.

During the summer months Pike take the worm or minnow best early in the morning and late in the evening. In September and October they will bite well all day, but best about three o'clock in the afternoon; and now the bait which before was nauseous to the Pike, is become very desirable, and will not easily be forsaken by it.

Pike when on feed are as bold as they are voracious, attacking and devouring all kinds of fish, with the exception of the Tench.

TO TROLL FOR PIKE.

The best baits to troll with are small Trout, Greyling, Bleak, Gudgeons, Roach, Dace, and young Frogs; the fish baits varying from one to four ounces in weight; a Pike may be allured by a larger bait, but a small one is more certain to take it. The rod for trolling must be long and stout, the line strong and thirty yards or more in length, wound upon a reel; the bottom to be about twelve inches of gimp, or strong twisted gut, to

which a box swivel is attached to help the bait to turn freely.

THE TROLLER'S DAY.

This tale presents such a "living portrait" of an October day's sport, that we shall make no apology to Mr. Salter for extracting it entire from his work on Angling, for the amusement of our readers.

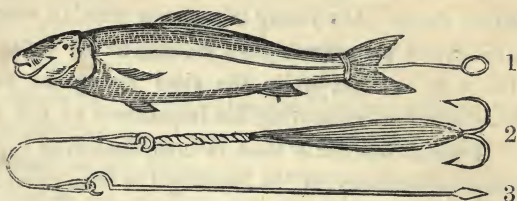
" I seldom to the rivers went,
But either Jack or Pike I took."

" About ten o'clock, the latter end of October, the weather being very favourable for trolling, and the water of a good colour, I walked to the river Lea, where, by appointment, I met a young angler, with an haversack slung over his shoulder, a trolling rod under his arm, and in his pocket a book of trolling tackle, consisting of hooks of various sizes, baiting needles, sewing needles, silk, thread, a disgorging, scissors, &c.; also a box with half-a-dozen bait fish in it, well sprinkled with bran, and inside his jacket (on the left hand side) he had placed a landing hook (the point of which was stuck fast into a cork, to prevent it accidentally injuring him, in case of a slip or fall), fixed to a telescope jointed rod. Some anglers hang the hook through a

buttonhole, on the left hand side of their coat or jacket, always taking care to secure the point from injuring them. My young friend was waiting very anxiously for my arrival. On looking at my watch, I found it not yet quite the time we agreed to meet; however, perceiving his impatience to wet a line, I spent but little time in complimenting him on the punctuality of his keeping the time agreed on to meet, and on his having all the necessary tackle, bait fish, &c. in the best order, but immediately directed him to proceed in the following manner.

“First put your rod together, fix the joints one within the other firmly, and mind, while so doing, that the rings on the different joints are in a direct line with each other to the large ring at the top, by which means the line from the winch will then run in a straight direction, consequently much more free than if the rings were in a zigzag, or crooked line; now fix the winch about ten inches up the butt of the rod, in a line with the rings on the other joints, and draw some of the line from the winch, passing it through every ring, and out of the top large one; now continue to draw as much line as about half the length of the rod to the end of the line (which should be looped), and fasten your trace with looping it to the loop of the trolling

line—all very well; now bait a gorge hook in the following manner:



No. 1, Gorge hook baited. 2, Gorge hook. 3, Baiting needle.

“ Take a baiting needle, and hook the curved end of it to the loop of the gimp (to which the hook is tied), then introduce the point of the needle into the bait fish’s mouth, and bring it out at the middle of the fork part of its tail, the lead will then be hid inside the bait’s belly, and the shank of the hook will lie inside its mouth, the barbs and points outside, turning upwards; to keep the bait steady on the hooks, tie the tail part of it just above the fork to the gimp with white thread, or through the flesh, about half an inch above the tail, encircling the gimp, the thread passing under and over it, and then fix it to the loop swivel of the trace, and all will be ready for casting in search of Jack or Pike; now take the rod in your right hand, grasping it just above the winch, and rest the butt end of it against the lower side of your stomach, or the

upper part of your thigh, and, with your left hand draw a yard more of the trolling line from the winch, which you must hold lightly, until, with a jerk from the right arm, you cast the baited hook in the water; when the jerk is given, let the line, which you hold in the left hand, pass from its hold gradually, that the baited hook may not be checked when cast out by holding the line too fast, or that it may fall short of where you wish to place it, which it will do if you let go of it altogether, immediately you have made a jerk or cast from the right arm.

“ By noticing these observations, and with a little practice, you may, without labour, cast a baited hook to many yards distance, and almost to an inch of the spot you think likely to harbour a Jack or Pike. Many anglers troll with the rod held in their hand, instead of letting the butt end rest against them; but they cannot cast out their baited hook, when so carrying the rod, with so much precision, nor with so little exertion, as those who rest it against their stomach or thigh. Now you have every thing ready, cast in the baited hook just over and beyond those candock weeds; let the bait sink, nearly to touching the bottom; now draw it gradually upwards till it is near the surface of the water; let it sink again; now draw it upwards

and also a little to the right and left; let it sink again and draw it up slowly, and step back a little from the water, and gradually draw the bait nearer the shore; all very fair, but no luck; the next cast in search, throw a few yards further out; very well; draw and sink as before, to the right and left, &c. but yet I see you cannot move a fish. We will try another place; aye, here is a likely place, on my word, to find a fish; observe, the segs and rushes are very thick, and reach nearly all round this bend or bay of the river, and I see there are a few weeds, but they do not appear very strong, and the current and eddy is only strong enough to keep the water lively; now put on a fresh bait, a choice one; ah! let me see; threadle this gudgeon; I think this spot deserves every attention. Now cast in your bait about two yards beyond those segs, directly opposite where I now stand; very well; that is a neat and fair throw; draw up slowly and carefully. Something has snatched or pulled your line violently, you say; bravo, you have a run; lower the point of your rod towards the water, and at the same time draw the line with your left hand gradually from the winch, that nothing may impede the line from running free, or check the Jack or Pike; either one or the other of which, at a certainty, has taken your baited hook;

ah! the fish stops; I see he has not run more than two yards of line out, therefore you found him at home. Now, by my watch, I see he has laid still seven minutes; very well; but have a little more patience; oh! now I see the line shakes; all is right: ah! he moves, he runs; wind up the slack line, and strike, but not violently, and keep the point of your rod a little raised, for I have no doubt, by his laying so long still, that he has got the hooks safe enough in his pouch; he makes towards the middle of the river, and seems inclined to go up stream. You say he feels heavy and swims low; all is right again, believe me, he is a good fish; I see there is some very strong candock weeds a head, and he appears desirous of gaining them; try and turn him, by holding your rod to the left instead of the right, and lead him back to the place from whence he started. That is still fortunate, he turns kindly: ah! now he strikes off again; very well, let him go; now wind him in again; again he is off; steady, steady; mind your line; do not distress it by keeping it too tight on your fish: now he makes shorter journies, and seems inclined to come in shore: very well, you may now wind, and hold a little tighter on him, and feel if he will allow you to raise and show him, but be collected and careful. That is well done; I

see he is a fish worth bagging, but keep steady, and have your line all free, for he will now, for a short time, be more violent than ever. Try and lead him down to yon opening, at which place I see the water is nearly on a level with the marsh (a famous place, indeed, to land a fish, especially if the angler is alone, and without a landing hook), he seems a good deal weakened, yet the danger is not all passed: now draw him nearer the shore, and again raise and give him a little fresh air: ah! now he is angry and growing desperate, but keep steady, for I think we are all over right. See how he extends his monstrous jaws, showing his numerous teeth, red gills, and capacious throat: observe how he shakes his head, and flings himself over and out of the water, as if he was determined to break and destroy the strongest tackle; but steady, keep all clear and free. Now bring him near shore again; still he shakes himself violently, and has thrown another somerset in the air; it is all very well; give him a few turns more, and he will be tame enough: now draw him close in shore. I see he is quite exhausted, and floats motionless on his side; hold his head a little up, that the jaws or gills do not touch or hang to a weed: that is it: now grasp him with both hands just below the head and shoulders, behind the gills, and hoist or chuck him a few yards

on the grass ; well done, and a handsome fish you have for your pains ; it is a female Pike, I see, and in excellent condition, and I believe it weighs eight pounds at least. Now, my boy, bag the fish, and put on another baited hook, for I would have you recollect, it frequently happens that you will find a brace of Pike in such a place as this, of a similar size, though of different sexes. After a few throws my young angler had another run, and was fortunate enough to kill the fish, which proved a male Pike, seemingly within half-a-pound weight of the female. During the remainder of this day's trolling, we bagged a third fish, about four pounds weight ; I then said enough, do not distress the water. We now withdrew to a comfortable inn, on the river side, for refreshment."

It would be well for the angler to provide himself with double hooks of several sizes, so that he may always have one proportioned to the size of the bait which his judgement leads him to prefer. Some are of opinion that it is better to deprive the bait of all the fins except the tail ; they say it helps it to spin better ; we think it is not a matter of importance, and therefore the angler may use his own discretion.

To preserve the baits fresh, it is best to keep them in a box covered with bran, which will absorb the moisture from their bodies ; if, when packing the baits, you sprinkle a little salt over them, they will keep longer and be in a better state for use.

THE TRIMMER.

The next mode, in general estimation, of taking a Pike is with the trimmer, or bank runner, and this may be used while angling for other fish, or left to remain all night ; the baits most proper are enumerated on page 47, which must be alive, and about six inches in length ; the line should be about twelve yards of hard-twisted twine ; the double hooks, and platted wire adapted for the bottom will cost a mere trifle, and may be had at any fishing tackle shop. When at the place where you intend leaving the line, take a bait and make an incision in the skin with a sharp knife on the left shoulder, and another a little below the back fin ; then introduce the wire to which the double hook is attached (first taking off the hook), at the lower incision, and bring it out at the upper, just far enough to enable you to hang the hook on again, then draw the wire back so that the hook remains close to the shoulder. Care must be taken

in performing the above operation on the bait, not to injure it more than is necessary ; and the quicker it is performed the better. You should in the first place wind the line on a forked stick, of hazel or ash, about six inches long, and in shape similar to a Y, having a slit on one end of the fork in which the line is to be placed, but not tighter than just to prevent the bait-fish from drawing it out ; then set off the bait, first making the line fast to a bush, or stake, so that it may hang a little below mid-water. Note, the line should be leaded with a small bullet a few inches from the hook, and if a swivel be added to connect the line with the wire bottom, it will be found advantageous.

A trimmer may be made with a block of light wood, having a cylinder in the centre on which the line is wound, leaving about a yard and half, or more, to hang down in the water ; after baiting, it should be set at liberty and permitted to go wherever the current drives it, the angler silently following ; when a fish has pounced the bait, he must then proceed in a boat, or otherwise, to secure his prize.

In lakes and ponds the following trimmer frequently meets with success ; tie about a yard of twine fast to the neck of a blown bladder (a common wine bottle, well corked, will answer the same

purpose), to the end of which attach the bottom before described, or if the bait be not too large, single hooks tied to a piece of gimp may be used instead, the bait to be suspended by the back fin; after baiting it is to be started on the water before a brisk wind. When a Pike has taken the bait, you will perceive the water agitated in the most violent manner, and after an amusing and desperate struggle, the bladder or bottle will kill the heaviest of fish.

Walton says, that if a short line, with a live bait attached, be fastened round the body, or wings, of a goose or duck, and she chased over a pond, will make excellent sport.

THE LEIGER.

The rod and line for leiger, or live-bait fishing, must be strong, and of a length adapted to the water in which you intend angling; the bottom about two feet of gimp, to be affixed to the line by a swivel; the hook, if single, No. 3, if double, No. 5; put on a cork float sufficiently large to swim a Gudgeon, or large Minnow, at mid-water; the line to be leaded so as to make the float stand upright on the water. The angler must carry his baits with him in a tin kettle with a few holes in the top; to

bait the hook, pass the point and barb through both the lips of the live bait, on the side of the mouth, which will not distress it so much as by passing the hook through its nose; or pass the hook under the back fin, taking care that it does not go too deep, for, should it injure the back bone, the bait will die in a few minutes. When a Pike takes the bait, allow a little time to pouch, then strike. In this manner several other kinds of fish may be caught, viz. Trout, Perch, &c.

SPRING SNAP.

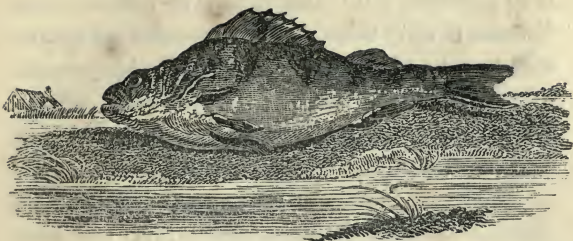
The spring snap usually sold at the tackle shops, is to be fished with in the same way as the preceding, only it is necessary to strike the instant a fish takes the bait. The angler may make the following, which will answer nearly as well; tie to a piece of gimp two large worm hooks, long in the shank, and on the shank near the top, whip a small hook to hang the bait on; the two large hooks will then lie close to the side of the bait.

If frogs are used, either for trolling, or live-bait fishing, you must choose the yellowest that can be procured; to bait with it, put the arming wire into its mouth, and bring it out through its gills; then tie the wire to the frog's leg, just above the upper

joint. When a single hook, No. 4 or 5, is used, fix it through the side of the frog's lip, it will then live a long time in the water, and swim strong.

SNARING OR HALTERING.

During the spring and summer months, when Pike are found inactive near the surface of the water, which is frequently the case, especially in ditches connected with rivers, and among weeds, they are then to be taken by snaring or haltering, which must be conducted in the following manner ; —procure a strong stiff taper pole, four yards long, and not too heavy ; at the taper end tie on about a yard of whiplcord, having a piece of well-nealed brass wire, or gimp fastened to it, and formed into a noose. When you espy a fish, fix your eye steadily upon it, and do not look off ; then, having the snare ready, lower it gradually into the water, about two yards before the fish, and guide it very gently towards its head ; when the snare is carried beyond its head and gills, strike with a jerk, and lift it out immediately.

PERCH.

THE Perch is an inhabitant of clear rivers and lakes, and is to be found in all parts of England; its general length, when full grown, is from twelve to eighteen inches, and weighs from two to four pounds. The colour of the Perch is brownish olive, sometimes accompanied by a slight gilded tinge on the sides, and commonly marked with five or six moderately broad, blackish transverse bars; the dorsal fin is of a pale violet brown, the rest of the fins, and the tail, are red. Sometimes this fish varies in colour, the olive assuming a richer cast of gilded green, the dusky bars appearing more numerous, and of a bluish black.

The Perch is fond of frequenting deep holes in rivers which flow with a gentle current; it is extremely voracious, and eagerly takes a bait; and

is so tenacious of life that it may be carried to the distance of sixty miles, in dry straw, and yet survive the journey. The flesh of it is held in high repute, being considered remarkably firm and delicate. When cooked it is sometimes boiled in wine or vinegar, which gives solidity and flavour to the fish.

The Perch spawns in February and March; the season for angling is during April, May, and June, from day-light till eleven o'clock in the morning, and from three or four o'clock in the evening till dark; if the sky be clouded, and a brisk wind stirring, it will bite well all day. The best baits are minnows, red worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, cabbage grubs, and grasshoppers. When angled for with the minnow, it must be done nearly in the same manner as directed for Pike, on pages 58 and 59, only with this difference, the bottom of the line may be gut, and a single hook, No. 4 or 5; and when with worms, it is necessary to throw into certain places, in the river, or pond, stewed malt or fresh grains, and lob worms cut in pieces, before you begin; if this plan be adopted, success may be depended upon. When with maggots or wasp-grubs, bait the places as before, only substituting the bait you fish with for lob worms. The line to be used for this purpose should be strong and fine, the hook No. 5 for worms, No. 6 for wasp-grubs,

and No. 7 or 8 for maggots. The cabbage grub and grasshopper are to be used in the manner directed for Greyling. The bait should be suspended, by the float, about twelve or eighteen inches from the bottom. Two or three hooks may be used at the same time, and affixed to the same bottom, when angling for Perch with the worm or maggot; it is necessary to tie them to separate pieces of short stiff gut, or bristle, and to fasten them to the line by a loop, about six inches above each other. Sometimes Perch may be taken with a fly under water.

RUFFE.

THE Ruffe, or Ruffe Perch, chiefly frequents clear rivers; it is about six inches in length; its shape is more slender than that of the common Perch; its head rather large, and somewhat flattened; its colour inclining to olive, with dusky spots dispersed over the body, fins, and tail; and the belly whitish. Its flesh is very wholesome, and is preferred to the common Perch.

The Ruffe inhabits mostly deep places with gravelly bottoms; in summer it will bite all day long, if the weather be cool and the sky clouded; small red worms, or brandlings, well scoured, are the best baits. It is to be angled for with the same tackle as for Gudgeons. Sometimes fifty or a hundred may be taken at one stand. This fish is frequently caught when angling for Perch.



CARP.

THE Carp is a native of the southern parts of Europe, and was introduced into England in the year 1514. The usual length of it is from twelve to fifteen inches; but it sometimes arrives at the length of two or three feet, and weighs from twenty to thirty pounds. Its general colour is a yellowish olive, much deeper or browner on the back, and accompanied with a slightly gilded tinge on the sides; the scales are large, rounded, and very distinct; the head is large, and the mouth furnished on each side with a long beard or wattle, and above the nostrils is a much smaller and shorter pair; the fins are violet brown, and the tail slightly forked.

The Carp spawns in May, June, or July, according as the warm season sets in; at this time it swims to shallow, warm and sheltered places, when the female deposits the spawn where the bottom is

somewhat gritty, about the roots of grass, osier roots, &c. the milter, or male fish, by a natural instinct, follows the spawner, and the milt, or soft roe, is spread over the spawn, which thus becomes impregnated. Carp at this season are frequently seen swimming as it were in a circle, about the same spot. The finest and calmest days are commonly those on which Carp spawn; Providence having thus made a provision for the greater security of the fry of so useful a fish; as otherwise, in a stormy day, the spawn would be washed towards the banks, where it would be eaten up by birds, trampled under foot, or dried up by the heat of the sun. The Carp is an extremely prolific fish, and the quantity of roe is so great, that it is said to have sometimes exceeded the weight of the emptied fish itself, when weighed against it.

The usual food of the Carp consists of worms and aquatic insects; it is so tenacious of life that it may be kept for a very considerable time in any damp place, though not immersed in water; and it is said to be sometimes fattened with success by being enveloped in wet moss, suspended in a net, and fed at intervals with white bread steeped in milk; taking care to refresh it now and then by throwing fresh water over the net in which it is suspended. The age to which the Carp arrives is

very great, and several well-authenticated instances are adduced of its arriving at that of considerably more than a century.

The Carp chiefly inhabits lakes and ponds; being seldom found in any of our rivers; it frequents the deepest and most quiet places, especially if the bottom be of sand, clay, or weeds. In its general habits the Carp displays so much cunning, that it has received the name of the river fox; it will often leap over a net, or bury itself so deep in the mud that the net passes over without taking it. By being constantly fed, however, it may be rendered so familiar that it will come at a signal, beg for bread, and even allow itself to be handled. It is best in season in March and April, being then very fat; and the flesh is much more delicate and agreeable to the palate than at any other time.

The prime months to angle for Carp are from February to June; if the weather is mild they will then bite more freely than at any other part of the season, and at any time in the day, particularly if there be a slight shower of rain falling. From June till Michaelmas they are to be fished for very early in the morning or late in the evening; during cold weather they will not bite at all. In angling, use a long light rod, with a reel and reel-line of the finest description, the bottom of which must be at least

two yards of gut; and, as the mouth of this fish is small, it is necessary to use smaller hooks than for other fish, viz. the hook for worms should be No. 5 or 6, for wasp-grubs No. 7, and for maggots No. 8 or 9; the line to be lightly leaded with small shot a few inches from the hook, using a very small goose-quill float. The best baits are well-scoured red worms and brandlings, maggots, wasp-grubs, and the green worms found upon bushes and cabbage leaves; the last is an excellent bait, and is more natural to them than any other; they are also partial to the white pieces selected from chandler's greaves, which should be softened by soaking in warm water a short time before they are used. If convenient, the angler should, a few hours before he commence his operations, throw in either of these ground-baits: procure fresh grains and lob-worms cut in pieces, with a little bran and greaves mixed together; or a few slices of white bread with treacle or honey spread thereon; by this means, if thrown in over night, you will have a great chance of success at day-break next morning.

The following pastes are considered good for taking Carp; take the boiled flesh of a rabbit, cut small and beaten in a mortar, adding thereto a little flour and honey; or crumbs of white bread and honey made into paste; this last is equally good,

and more easily made than the former; and to make it stick upon the hook, you may mix with it a little white cotton wool.

When angling with paste the bait must be near, but never on the bottom; striking immediately a fish takes it. When a large Carp is hooked, you will find it make an obstinate resistance; you should give it line cautiously, now drawing it in, and letting it go again, until it is exhausted; it is a very strong and artful fish, and will use its utmost endeavours to entangle the line among weeds or roots; in fact, a Carp seems to become more cunning and crafty as it increases in age and size. It is but seldom that Carp will take a bait in ponds until the beginning of May.

It frequently happens in warm weather when angling for Carp in ponds, that you see them swimming near the top of the water, particularly among large leaves that lie floating on the surface; at such times you may distinctly hear them sucking the juices or insects from the leaves; and then if you act cautiously in dropping a bait into the water, in any little opening, about eight inches deep, you will find them take it very readily. The line adapted for this purpose should be strong, to enable you to lift the fish on shore the instant you strike.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING OF CARP.

Carp, from their quick growth and vast increase, are the most valuable of all fish for the stocking of ponds; and if the breeding and feeding of them were better understood, and more practiced, the advantages resulting from them would be very great. The following observations, if strictly adhered to, will be found to answer exceedingly well.

The first thing which must be attended to is to select the ground where Carp ponds are to be made; for, upon the soil, water, and situation, the success in the management chiefly depends. The best ponds are situated in a well-manured fertile plain, surrounded by pastures and corn-fields of a rich black mould; the water ought to be mild and soft, by no means too cold, or impregnated with acid, calcareous, or other mineral particles; they should be sheltered from cold easterly or northerly winds, by a ridge of hills, situate at some distance from the ponds, enjoying fully the benign influence of the sun, far from where the leaves of trees might cause a putrefaction, and impregnate the water with astringent particles. Ponds in a poor, dry, or sandy soil, surrounded by pines or firs, are considered the worst of any for Carp. The ground towards the pond ought to have a gentle slope; for deep valleys are subject to great floods, and will endanger the dikes in a wet season.

It is found by experience most convenient to have three kinds of ponds for Carp; the first is called the spawning pond, the second the nursery, and the third, or largest, the main pond. There are two methods of stocking the ponds with Carp; either to buy a few old fish, and put them into the spawning pond; or to purchase a good quantity of one-year old fry, for the nursery. A pond intended for spawning must be well cleared of all other kinds of fish, especially such as are of a rapacious nature, viz. Pike, Perch, Trout, and Eels; and also of all lizards and water-beetles, which frequently destroy quantities of fry, to the great loss of the owner. A pond of the size of about one acre, requires three or four male Carp, and six or eight females. The best for breeders are five, six, or seven years old, in good health, full scale, and without any blemish or wound. Such as are sickly have spots, as if they had the small pox, have lost their scales, or have them sticking loosely to their bodies; and such whose eyes lie deep in their heads, and are short and lean, will never produce a good breed. Being provided with a set of Carp sufficient to stock a pond with, it is best to put them, on a fine calm day, into the spawning pond at the latter end of March, or beginning of April. Great care must be taken during the spawning season, to prevent the approach of all

aquatic fowl, wild and tame, to the pond; for geese and ducks not only swallow the spawn, but destroy still more by searching among the weeds and water plants.

The young fry being hatched from the spawn by the influence of the sun, they are left the whole summer, and even the next winter, in the spawning pond, in case it be so deep that the suffocation of the young tender fry under the ice in a severe winter, is not to be apprehended. If, however, the shallowness of the pond, or its cold situation render it necessary to secure the fry against the rigors of the ensuing winter, the water of the pond must be let off, in which case, the fry and old fish will gradually retire to the ditches which communicate with the hole in the middle of the pond, and a net with small meshes, is then employed to catch both the fry and the old ones. The old breeders are then to be separated from the fry and put into separate ponds that are warmer; this should be done in a calm mild day at the latter end of September. The nursery is the second kind of pond intended for the bringing up of the young fry; the best time to put them into the nursery is in March or April; a thousand or twelve hundred of these fry may be allotted to each acre of a pond; and if the water and soil agree with them, it is almost certain

that they will grow, during two summers, so much as to weigh four, and sometimes five pounds, and to be fleshy and well tasted. The main ponds are the last kind; in these Carp are to be put that measure twelve inches, head and tail inclusive; every square of fifteen feet is sufficient for one Carp, and will afford food and room for the fish to play in. Spring and autumn are the best seasons for stocking the main ponds. The growth of the fish will always be in proportion to the food they have; for Carp are observed to grow a long time, and to come to a very considerable size.

During winter, ponds ought to have their full compliment of water; for the deeper the water is, the warmer lie the fish; and in case the ponds are covered with ice, some holes must be made every day for the admission of fresh air, for want of which, Carp frequently perish. Ponds should never be of less depth than four or five feet; and if the water stagnates, and grows putrid, it must be let off, and a supply of fresh water be introduced. After ponds have been five or six years in constant use, it is likewise necessary to let the water entirely off, and clear them of the mud, which often increases too much, and becomes a nuisance.

It sometimes happens that Carp and Tench being put together in a pond, the different species

mix their roe and milt, and thus produce mules, or mongrel breeds; these mules partake of the nature of both fish, and grow to a good size, but some parts of their bodies are covered with the small slimy scales of the Tench, while some other parts have the larger scales of a Carp: their flesh approaches nearer to that of a Tench, and they are likewise of a less tender nature than the common Carp.



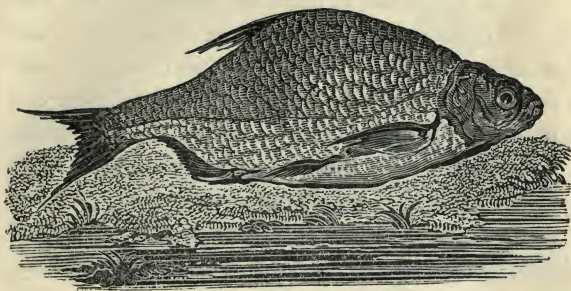
TENCH.

THE Tench appears to be a native of most parts of the globe, inhabiting chiefly large stagnant waters with a muddy bottom; it is seldom to be found in rivers. Its general length is about twelve or fourteen inches, but, like most other fish it is occasionally found of far greater magnitude. Its usual colour is a deep blackish olive, accompanied by a slight gilded cast; the fins, which are thick are of a dull violet colour; it sometimes varies considerably in the tinge of its colour according to the situation in which it resides. The shape of this fish is thick, and the skin is covered, like that of an Eel, with an adhesive mucus, or slime, beneath which appear the scales, which are very small, and closely affixed to the skin;

the head is rather large, the eyes small, and on each side the mouth is placed a beard or wattle.

The Tench, like the Carp and Perch, is remarkably tenacious of life; it is supposed by some to lie, during the winter, in a torpid state, concealed beneath the mud of the water which it inhabits, being rarely taken during that season. In the months of May and June it deposits its spawn among water plants; it is considered as a very prolific species, and is said to be of quick growth. According to the difference or caprice of taste and fashion, the Tench is held in greater or less repute; but, generally speaking it is esteemed as a very delicate fish; the flesh of the male is firmer and richer than that of the female, and therefore is preferred. It is in season from the end of September to the middle of April.

The best time to angle for Tench is in March, April and May, in warm cloudy weather; and particularly if the wind disturbs the surface of the water. Well-scoured worms, and maggots, and wasp-grubs, are the best baits; when angling for it continue throwing in a few worms, or maggots, whichever you may use, to keep them together; indeed, Tench and Carp partake very much the nature of each other; their haunts are precisely the same; they may be angled for with similar baits, and after the same manner.

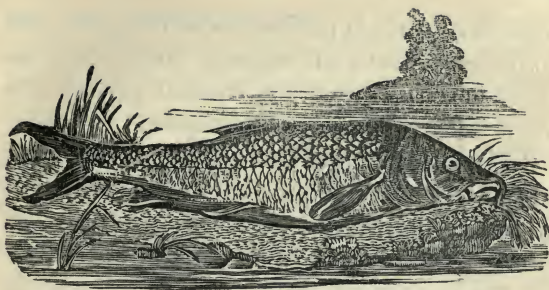
BREAM.

THE Bream chiefly inhabits the larger kind of lakes and still rivers; in shape it is very broad, or deep, and sometimes exceeds two feet in length; its colour is olive, with a pale or flesh coloured tinge on the under parts; scales rather large, and tail deeply forked. Its flesh is but little esteemed for the table, being considered as coarse and insipid. It bears great resemblance to the Carp.

The Bream spawns in June and July, and breeds abundantly; is best in season in May, though some think it best in September; in rivers they swim in shoals, and are principally to be found in gentle gliding streams that have sand or clay on the bottom; in ponds, if deep and wide, they prefer the middle.

The best time to angle for Bream, is from sunrise in the morning till eight or nine o'clock, and from five in the evening till dark; and the best seasons are just before it spawns, and from the end of July to the end of September. The baits are well-scoured red worms, brandlings, maggots, wasp-grubs, and flag or seg worms, which are to be found at the roots of rushes or segs near the water side; also, grasshoppers, cabbage grubs, and codbaits; experience will teach you that red worms are the best. Use the same tackle as described for Carp, and the bait to lie on or very near the bottom; ground-baiting the places where you intend to angle with fresh grains and lob-worms cut in pieces before you begin.

The angler should cautiously avoid standing close to the water's edge after he has deposited the line, and when he perceives a bite, he is to strike gently as the float disappears. Two or three rods and lines may be used at the same time, if fishing in still water; the rods may be supported by fixing short stakes in the ground with forked tops.



BARBEL.

THE Barbel, which is found in some parts of England, by the lengthened form of its body, somewhat resembles the Pike; the upper lip, which extends considerably beyond the lower, is furnished with two long unequal barbs, or beards; its colour is a silvery grey, with a darker cast on the upper parts; the scales are round, and of a middle size.

The Barbel is usually found in deep and rapid rivers; it is a fish of considerable strength, swimming with rapidity, and living not only on worms and water insects, but occasionally preying on the smaller fishes. Its general length is from eighteen inches to two feet; it is said to be of quick growth, and to arrive at a great age. It is a very coarse fish, and never admitted at superior tables, having even the reputation of being in some degree

noxious ; the roe in particular is said to operate as a very strong emetic and cathartic, and is sometimes taken in a small quantity as common physic. It is in its prime in August and September.

The Barbel usually spawns in April and May, according to the warmth of the season ; and at this period it rushes up the river and deposits the spawn in stony places, in the most rapid parts of the current.

The best time to fish for Barbel is during the months of July, August, and September, early in the morning and late in the evening ; the most killing baits are the spawn of Salmon, Trout, or indeed of any other fish, especially if it be fresh, respecting which the Barbel is very cunning ; well-scoured lobworms, red worms, and maggots, and chandler's greaves, are all good baits ; it will sometimes take toasted cheese, or sheep's suet and cheese made into paste with a little honey. It is advisable to bait the places three or four times before you begin angling, either with spawn, or a quantity of worms cut in pieces. The rod and line with which you fish for Barbel, must both be extremely long, the bottom tackle equally fine as for Carp, the hook No. 7 or 8, using a large quill float ; the line to be well leaded about nine inches from the hook, as it is a fish that invariably feeds on the bottom.

The Barbel is a very sharp biter, and pulls the

float down suddenly, therefore you should strike the instant you perceive it; when you have hooked one, permit it to run out with the line to some distance before you make any attempt to check or turn it, then use every endeavour to prevent it getting among weeds or stones, or under the shelvings of the bank, all which it will try to effect, and should it succeed you will have very little chance of killing it; if you hook one in a current, the best way you can manage it is to draw it as quickly as possible into still water, and tire it well before you attempt to land it, which, if a heavy fish, will sometimes occupy nearly half an hour; but be not afraid, for when the hook, although small, is fairly fixed in its fleshy lips, it will seldom draw. The Barbel is chiefly prized by anglers on account of its being a very game fish, it affords them excellent sport, mixed with some labour and much anxiety.

RUD.

THE Rud partakes very much of the nature both of Bream and Roach, indeed it is called by many a bastard Bream; some say it is produced by the one shedding its milt over the spawn of the other. It is frequently caught in the Thames when angling for Roach or Dace; it is also abundant in the river Cherwell, near Oxford, and in the Witham, in

Lincolnshire. In length it is about eight or ten inches; its head small, back arched and sloping suddenly towards the head and tail; its general colour is a pale gilded olive, deeper or browner on the back, belly reddish, fins deep red, and tail forked.

The Rud is a very indifferent fish for the table, the flesh being soft and full of bones. It spawns in April. Red worms, maggots, and paste are the best baits, to take them with; use a fine line, quill float, No. 8 or 9 hook, and angle at the bottom; in every respect pursue the same method as though you were fishing for Roach or Dace. This fish thrives well in ponds that have a gravelly bottom.

ROACH.

THE Roach inhabits most of the rivers in England, especially such as are deep, still and clear; and very frequently appearing in large shoals, which are observed to be generally preceded by one, or more, apparently stationed as a kind of guard, in order to warn the main body of the approach of any danger. This fish seldom exceeds a pound in weight. Its colour is silvery, with a cast of dull yellow, more dusky or brownish on the upper parts; the fins are red, and the tail slightly forked. The soundness of the flesh is become proverbial, but it is full of bones and insipid to the palate.

The haunts of Roach, during spring, are on the shallows and scowers, in summer among weeds, and in winter in deep holes and eddies. It spawns about the middle of May, and breeds abundantly. The principal season for them is at Michaelmas, and they continue good all the winter. It is easy to distinguish whether it be in season or otherwise; for if the scales on the back be rough to the touch, it is out of season; if they lie flat and smooth, the reverse.

In summer the Roach bites best from sun-rise till nine o'clock in the morning, and from four in evening till dark; in winter during the middle of the day. It will readily take small red worms, brandlings, maggots, wasp-grubs, and paste made of crumbs of white bread slightly soaked in water, with a little vermillion added to make it of a salmon colour; or the crumb of new bread without soaking; paste is certainly the most killing bait for large Roach; to bait with it, put a piece on the hook about the size of a large pea, and before you begin to angle plumb the depth, and permit the bait to float near, but not so as to touch the bottom, or it will wash off the hook. When angling with worms or maggots the bait should lie two or three inches on the bottom. If fishing for Roach in a still hole, or a gentle stream, the best ground bait is chewed

bread, or bread and bran made into small pellets ; throwing a little in occasionally so that it may sink to the place where the baited hook lies.

There is another excellent bait for Roach in winter, namely, a small white worm with a red head, about the size of two maggots ; it is to be found after the plough upon heath or sandy ground ;—when this bait is made use of, it becomes necessary to strew stewed malt, or fresh grains, in such places where you intend to angle. With the exception of maggots, this is certainly the best bait for Roach and Dace.

The rod for Roach fishing should be long and light, with a fine taper top ; the line to be made of hair, not more than four hairs thick, the bottom of which must be of single hair, or the very finest gut, and the hook No. 9 or 10, using a small quill float.

DACE.

The Dace, or Dare, inhabits most of the rivers in this country ; it resembles the Roach very much in its shape and manners ; its general length is from six to nine inches ; in colour silvery, with yellowish olive back ; the scales of a middle size ; the fins slightly tinged with red, and the tail sharply forked. It chiefly delights in deep still water, that has gravel

or sand at the bottom, but not in shaded places. Its flesh is coarse and soft, and full of bones, yet it is considered palatable and nourishing. It seldom grows to be a pound in weight.

The Dace is a very simple fish, and therefore easily taken. It spawns at the end of March or beginning of April; previous to which they appear on the shallows in great numbers, rubbing themselves on the bottom, feeding on small worms and insects until they deposit their spawn, which they generally do in loose light gravel. At this season the Dace will take a small red worm freely; maggots, wasp-grubs, greaves, and paste made of cheese and honey, are also very good baits; it bites well all day, and after the river has been disturbed by rain, and is again falling fine, great quantities may be taken with the maggot. The line for either purpose cannot be too fine; the bottom to be at least two yards of gut, or single hair; the hook for maggots No. 9, but for any other bait a little larger; using a very small quill float. By baiting several places before you begin, with whatever bait you intend to angle, good sport may be depended upon. When the river is low and fine, it will take with avidity any of the small artificial flies, particularly the Sky Blue, Black Gnat, Red and Black Ants, Whirling Blue, Willow, &c.



CHUB.

THE Chub in some degree resembles the Tench in shape, but is of a more lengthened form, and has a thicker or larger head in proportion. It is very common in England; when full grown, it is from twelve to fifteen inches in length, and in weight four or five pounds; its colour is silvery grey, with a blueish olive cast on the upper parts; the scales are very large; the tail slightly forked, and of a dull blueish colour; and the fins of a rusty brown.

The Chub is chiefly to be found in clear and rapid rivers; is of a strong nature, and swims very swiftly; it generally frequents the deepest parts of the water, and is of a very timid disposition. It spawns in the months of April and May; the young are said to be of slow growth, scarcely arriving at a greater length than three inches in the space of the first year. It is generally considered as a coarse

unpalatable fish, and is apt to acquire a yellowish cast on boiling; for which reason it is held in no esteem at our tables. During the winter season this fish is much better than at any other; the bones are less troublesome, being more easily separated from the flesh, and the flesh more firm and better tasted; the roe is also well flavoured. Walton, in his well known work, "The Complete Angler," gives a receipt for dressing it in such a manner as to form no unpleasant repast.

"The Chub," says he, "though he eat well thus dressed, yet as he is usually dressed he does not; he is objected against, not only for being full of small forked bones, dispersed through all his body, but that he eats waterish, and that the flesh of him is not firm, but short and tasteless. The French esteem him so mean, as to call him *Un Villain*; nevertheless, he may be so dressed as to make him very good meat; as, namely, if he be a large Chub, then dress him thus:—First scale him, and then wash him clean, and then take out his guts; and to that end make the hole as little and near to his gills as you may conveniently, and especially make clean his throat from the grass and weeds that are usually in it; having so done, put some sweet herbs into his belly, and then tie him with two or three splinters to a spit, and roast him, basted often with vinegar,

or rather verjuice and butter, with good store of salt mixed with it. Being thus dressed, you will find him a much better dish of meat than you, or most folk, even than anglers themselves, do imagine; for this dries up the fluid watery humour with which all Chubs do abound." It should be dressed the same day it is caught.

The Chub comes in season in August, and continues good till March; during which time it chiefly inhabits deep holes that are much shaded; but in hot weather it sometimes resorts to fords and shallows where cattle frequent.

The Chub is an exceedingly greedy fish, and will take all kinds of baits, but is very sulky and mactive when hooked; it frequently annoys the Trout fisher, by rising at his flies; for, as it makes no play, and is good for little or nothing when caught, it must be considered mortifying to be teased by it when in expectation of nobler game.

It will bite well all the day long, and the best baits to take it at the bottom are worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, snails, or beef's brains; but the last is generally preferred. The line for this purpose must be strong and fine; the bottom to be about two yards of good gut; the hook, if brains be angled with, No. 6 or 7, if with maggots, or wasp-grubs, to be somewhat smaller; using a cork float. It is

necessary to bait the places you angle in with whatever bait you use. Should you fish with worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, or snails, the bait must lie upon the ground; but if with brains, a little below mid-water, being careful to strike the instant a fish bites, as the bait is so very tender. The Chub is likewise to be taken by bobbing, or dibbing, during the summer months, with almost any fly you can find; and at this period you will see them swimming near the top of the water, twenty or thirty in a place; you must approach very cautiously, or they will render the attempt fruitless, for on the least alarm they dive with rapidity to the bottom. Also the grasshopper and cabbage grub, either natural or artificial, are excellent baits, and will take many other kinds of fish.

When a Chub seizes the bait, he bites with so much eagerness that his jaws are often heard to chop like those of a dog.

BLEAK.

THE Bleak is to be found commonly in rivers; its length is about five or six inches; slender in shape, with the body much compressed; colour, bright silvery, with the back olive green; scales of a middle size, and tail forked. It is from the scales

of this fish that the beautiful silvery matter used in the preparation of artificial pearls is chiefly taken; the invention is of French origin, and is principally practised at Paris.

The Bleak is sometimes called the river swallow, from being continually in motion, and by their dexterity in catching flies, and other small insects that float upon the surface of the water. Its flesh is very agreeable to the palate, if dressed soon after it is taken. It is to be angled for below mid-water, with maggots; the line to have five or six small hooks, fastened six inches above each other; in this manner several may be taken at a time. It is also to be caught by a short fly line, with two or three artificial gnats, of a brownish colour, upon it, and on a summer's evening this method affords the young angler very pretty sport. It spawns in May, and is then out of season.

GUDGEON.

THE Gudgeon is principally an inhabitant of the smaller gentle rivers, especially those with gravelly bottoms; it generally measures from four to six inches, with a thick roundish body. Its usual colour is a pale olive brown above, slightly spotted with black; the sides silvery, and the belly white;

the scales are of a middle size; the fins of a pale yellowish brown, and the tail of a similar colour, spotted with black; the upper jaw rather longer than the lower, and furnished on each side with a shortish beard.

The Gudgeon is observed to reside principally at the bottom of the streams which it frequents, and it is usual with anglers to rake the bottom at intervals, by which means these fish are assembled in small shoals, expecting on the rising of the mud, a supply of their favourite food, such as small worms and water insects.

It generally spawns in May, and is observed not to deposit all its eggs at once, but at distant periods, so that the spawning time lasts near a month; it is a very prolific species. As a table fish it is in high estimation, being of a delicate flavour, and considered as not greatly inferior to the Smelt.

The Gudgeon, in the summer months, is to be found in light gliding streams; but from Michaelmas to April it frequents the deepest parts of the river. It will bite any time of the day, particularly in warm gloomy weather; small red worms or maggots are the principal baits; the line should be very fine, the hook No. 8 or 9, letting the bait lie upon the bottom. Gudgeons are excellent fish to entertain young anglers.

FLOUNDER.

THE Flounder is a flat fish; it is extremely common on the coasts of England, and is frequently found in rivers at a considerable distance from the sea. In colour, the upper side is of a dull brown, marbled with paler and darker variegations, and the under side of a dull white, sometimes obscurely varied with brown; it is covered with very small scales. It is in considerable esteem as food, though much inferior to others of the same genus; and those which inhabit fresh water are usually thought the best.

The Flounder is generally to be found in deep gentle streams that have gravel or sand bottoms, near to the side; it will bite all the day from the beginning of March till the end of August. The best baits are small red worms, brandlings, or blueish marsh worms; the line must be fine, the hook No. 6 or 7, the bait to lie on the bottom, and to be kept continually on the move. This fish is so cunning that it will frequently suck the bait off the hook; and if any part of the hook is bare, it will not touch the bait at all.

EEL.

THE Eel, in the natural arrangement of the animal world, may be considered as in some degree connecting the fish and serpent tribes; it is a native of almost all the rivers, lakes, and ponds in England; its general colour is olive brown on the back, and silvery on the sides beneath; it is, however, occasionally seen of a very dark colour, with scarce any silvery tinge, and sometimes of a yellow or greenish cast; those that inhabit the clearest waters are observed to be the most beautiful. The lower jaw of the Eel extends beyond the upper; the head is small and pointed; the eyes are small, round, and covered by a transparent skin united with the common integument of the body; the opening of the mouth is small, and both jaws and tongue are beset with several ranges of small sharp teeth; the skin is proverbially slippery, being furnished with a large proportion of mucus, or slime; it is also furnished with small deeply-imbedded scales, which are not easily visible in the living animal, but are very conspicuous in the dried skin.

The Eel is extremely tenacious of life; and may be kept many hours, or even days, out of water, provided it be placed in a cool situation; it is even affirmed that it voluntarily leaves the water at certain

periods, and wanders about meadows and moist grounds in quest of particular food, as snails, &c. This will account for Eels being found in waters that have not been in the least suspected to contain them.

The usual food of the Eel consists of water-insects, worms, and the spawn or eggs of other fish; it will also devour almost any decayed animal substance, which it happens occasionally to find in its native waters. It is viviparous, producing its numerous young during the decline of summer; these, at their first exclusion, are very small. The errors of the ancients on this subject, and even of some modern writers, are too absurd to be seriously mentioned in the present enlightened period of science; it appears, however, that both eggs and ready-formed young are occasionally observed in the same individuals, as is known to be the case with several other animals.

During the day the Eel commonly lies concealed in its hole, which it forms pretty deep beneath the banks, and which is furnished with two outlets, in order to facilitate its escape if disturbed: during the winter it chiefly conceals itself beneath the mud, and on the return of spring commences its excursions into rivers, &c."

The general length of the Eel is from two to

three feet, but it is sometimes said, though very rarely, to attain to the length of six feet, and to the weight of twenty pounds. It is a fish of slow growth, and is supposed to live to a very considerable age.

The Eel has this extraordinary property, never to be out of season; though it is best and fattest during the summer months. As food it is, by the general run of medical writers, rather condemned than recommended; it appears however to be highly nutritious, and is probably only injurious when taken to excess.

“ Eating of Eels is hurtful to the throat,
So say physicians of no common note.”

Eels, and perhaps Pike, are not found in any part of England in such numbers and variety as in the marshy parts of the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln. Of two rivers of the latter it is said in an old proverb,

“ Ankham Eel and Witham Pike,
In all England are none like.”

When angling for Eels, any common rod will answer the purpose, the line must be strong, having about a yard of gut for the bottom, the hook to be No. 5 or 6, using a large quill float; bait with either red worms, brandlings, maggots, or wasp-grubs, the last of which they are remarkably fond of;

permit the shot to lie on the ground, which you will know to be the case if the float lies flat upon the water; when there is a bite the float generally disappears, you may strike immediately, because the instant an Eel takes the bait into its mouth it swallows it. When you have hooked one, lift it out directly, and put your foot upon it, and then separate the back bone close to the head with a knife, or a pair of scissors, which should always be at hand when fishing for Eels; for immediately an Eel is taken from the water it coils up, and will tie innumerable knots upon the line, unless prevented by cutting through this bone.

Several rods and lines may be managed by one angler, and, in summer, after a thunder storm, they will keep him constantly employed in taking them from the hooks.

SNIGGLING FOR EELS.

To sniggle for Eels, procure a strong top rod, or a long slender hazel stick, slip a small quill over the taper end, leaving the extreme end of the quill whole; a tailor's button needle, or a stocking needle, not more than two inches long, is also requisite, and a length of hard twisted twine, or fine whipcord, for the line; tie the needle to the line with waxed

silk, first laying the end of the line nearly half-way down the needle, the line will then hang from about the middle, leaving the smaller end bare. To bait the needle, enter the thick end of it into a well-scoured lob-worm near the tail, and carry it up to the head, so that the point of the needle may come out at the middle of the worm; then put the point of the needle into the end of the quill, and take the rod in one hand and the line in the other, when you may guide the bait into any of the well-known haunts of the Eel, viz. under large stones, into the holes of banks which lie beneath the surface, or in the decayed walls of mills or other buildings that stand in the water. When there is a bite, or run, you will feel a slight tug at the line, which should be held rather loose, you must then quietly withdraw the rod, and allow the Eel two minutes to gorge the bait; and then, by a sharp twitch, fix the needle across its throat; do not pull, but hold the line tight, and the Eel will soon make its appearance. A hook, No. 4 or 5, is frequently used in lieu of a needle.

NIGHT LINES FOR EELS.

A large quantity of Eels may be taken in the following manner:—procure a length of strong

twine, sufficient to reach across the river or pond you intend to try, then, having tied hooks of rather a large size to links of hair about half-a-yard in length, fasten them by a slip knot to the twine, four feet from each other, baiting the hooks with either lob-worms, Minnows, Loaches, or Bullheads; make fast one end of the line to the bank, and tie to the other end a piece of lead, or a stone; then cast the lead, or stone, across the river, or pond, in a sloping direction, and let it remain there all night; take it up at day-break next morning, and if the night has been favourable, that is, warm and dark, you may be almost sure of an Eel at every hook.

MINNOW.

THE Minnow frequents almost all the clear and gravelly streams in England; this well-known species may be numbered among the most beautiful of the British fishes; it seldom exceeds the length of three inches, and is of a slender and elegant shape; it varies in colour more than any other fish; the backs of some are green, some of a blueish cast, and some of a pale brown; the bellies are generally white, or silvery, with a tinge of yellow, or bright red. It appears first in March, and disappears at

the end of October, at which period it secrets itself beneath the mud; it usually assembles, in bright weather, in small shoals in shallow places, being particularly fond of warmth.

The Minnow spawns in June, and is often observed to be found in spawn during the greater part of summer; from its small size it is not much regarded in the list of eatable fish, though it is said to be extremely delicate, and where found in great plenty, is occasionally used for the table. It is much more frequently the victim of anglers, who procure it for the purpose of a bait for various fishes, particularly the Trout. It is to be angled for with a single hair line, having two or three of the very smallest hooks attached, which are to be baited with small red worms or maggots.

LOACH.

THE Loach is an inhabitant of clear rivulets, and commonly resides at the bottom among stones and gravel, and is on that account sometimes called by the name of Groundling; it is generally about three inches long; is of a dirty yellow colour on the back, and somewhat spotted, and white on the belly. In point of delicacy is said to be equal, if not superior, to most other fishes, and is cultivated

with much care in some places as an article of diet. The Loach is observed to spawn in March, and is very prolific. It is frequently taken when angling for Minnows.

BULLHEAD.

THE Bullhead, or Miller's Thumb, is to be found in almost all rivers; it rarely exceeds the length of three inches; its general colour is yellowish olive, much deeper on the head and upper parts of the back; and the whole body is more or less clouded with small dusky spots; the fins are large and yellowish, and likewise spotted; the head is large and flat, and broader than any part of the body. This fish occasionally swims with great strength and rapidity when in pursuit of its prey, though its general habit is that of lying on the gravel, or under stones in an apparently inert state. Notwithstanding its disagreeable appearance, it is considered as an eatable fish, and is even regarded as delicate; the flesh turns of a red, or salmon colour on boiling. The Bullhead usually spawns in March and April. This fish, also, is frequently caught when angling for Minnows.

STICKLEBACK.

THE Stickleback is an almost universal inhabitant of rivers, ponds, and marshes, and when in its full perfection of colour is highly beautiful; the back being of a fine olive green, the sides silvery, and the fins and belly of a bright red; the colours fade in a great degree as the season advances. The general length of this minute species is about two inches; on each side and on the back are placed several strong jagged spines, from whence it derives its name of Stickleback.

It is a fish of an extremely active and vigorous nature, swimming rapidly, and preying upon the smaller kind of water-insects and worms, as well as on the spawn of other fishes; and is, from this circumstance, considered highly prejudicial to fish-ponds; its only use is to be trolled with for Trout, previously cutting off the spines.

FLY-FISHING.

“ Just in the dubious point, where with the pool
Is mix'd the trembling stream, or where it boils
Around the stone, or from the hollow'd bank
Reverted plays in undulating flow,
There throw, nice judging, the delusive fly ;
And as you lead it round in artful curve,
With eye attentive mark the springing game.
Straight as above the surface of the flood
They wanton rise, or urg'd by hunger leap,
Then fix, with gentle twitch, the barbed hook ;
Some lightly tossing to the grassy bank,
And to the shelving shore, slow dragging some,
With various hand proportion'd to their force.
If yet too young, and easily deceiv'd,
A worthless prey scarce bends your pliant rod,
Him, piteous of his youth, and the short space
He has enjoyed the vital light of heav'n,
Soft disengage, and back into the stream
The speckled captive throw. But should you lure
From his dark haunt, beneath the tangled roots
Of pendent trees, the monarch of the brook,
Behoves you then to ply your finest art ;
Long time he, following cautious, scans the fly,
And oft attempts to seize it, but as oft
The dimpled water speaks his jealous fear.
At last, while haply o'er the shaded sun
Passes a cloud, he desperate takes the death,
With sullen plunge. At once he darts along,
Deep struck, and runs out all the lengthen'd line ;
Then seeks the farthest ooze, the sheltering weed,
The cavern'd bank, his old secure abode ;
And flies aloft, and flounces round the pool,
Indignant of the guile. With yielding hand
That feels him still, yet to his furious course
Gives way, you, now retiring, following now
Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage ;
Till floating broad upon his breathless side,
And to his fate abandon'd, to the shore
You gaily drag your unresisting prize.”

Thomson.

THE following hints on Fly-fishing are extracted from COLONEL HAWKER'S Instructions to Young Sportsmen.

“Almost every one is now-a-days a Piscator. The Fanatico, about Easter, goes off as busy as the cockney on his *nunter*, when bound to Epping. He generally takes a great many things, and kills a few fish. The old angler takes a few things and kills a great many fish. Some dark, warm, windy, drizzly days, early or late in the season, and particularly when a fine breeze blows from off the banks of a river where no one has begun fishing, the Trout are so easily taken, that a basket full is but little proof of skill. One might then almost train a monkey to catch a Trout. But at other times, and particularly when the fish are well fed, is the time to see who is and who is not an angler.

“About ninety in a hundred fancy themselves anglers. About one in a hundred is an angler. Now for a few very common faults. One who lets his fly lie too long in the water, after dropping it, is a better killer of time than of fish. He who tries to land a large fish against weeds and stream, where he can take him down, or allows a fish so much line as to be able to rub his nose against the bottom, may be considered as one in need of a fishing master. Enough, however, of defects. Now, then, to the point.

“**ROD.**—About twelve feet three inches long, and about fourteen ounces in weight. It must not be top heavy, nor it must not have too much play in the lower part, but the play should be just in proportion to the gradual tapering, by which there will be very little spring till after about the third foot of its length. A rod too pliable below is as bad a fault as being too stiff; and from being too small there, is, of course, more liable to be top heavy, which nine rods in ten are. The consequence is, they tire the hand, and do not drop the fly so neatly. I have seen some Irish rods, which, if they had not been too pliant, would have been worth any money.

“**REEL.**—Put on your reel with a plate and wax-end, fifteen inches from the bottom; and handle your rod close below it, keeping the reel uppermost, as the line then lies on, instead of under, your rod, and is, therefore, less likely to strain the top between the rings. The closer the rings are put together on the top, the less chance, of course, you have of straining or breaking it between them. Use a multiplying click reel, without a stop; and, by not confining it with the hand while throwing, you are sure never to break your rod or line, by happening to raise it suddenly, at the moment you have hooked a large fish or weed. Let your reel be

full large in proportion to the quantity of line, or it will not always go pleasantly with it in winding up.

“GUT AND FLIES.—Use about eight feet of gut, and the addition of that on the tail fly, will bring the whole foot-line to about three yards. Put on your bob fly a few inches below the middle; or, if in a very weedy river, within little more than a yard of the other; lest, while playing a fish with the bob, your tail fly may get caught in a weed. More gut than is here prescribed will be found an incumbrance when you want to get a fish up tight; insomuch that, of the two, I would rather have a little less than more of it.

“A small fly book may, of course, be taken; and I should recommend it on my plan, which is of Russia leather, in order to repel the moth. This no one will do better for you than Chevalier,* Bell-yard, Temple Bar. A common beaver hat is the best thing to hook and keep flies on; and, if you have not two rods by the river side, always keep a gut length and flies ready to put on round your hat, in order to avoid the waste of time and torment which you would have, if you had much entangled your line.

* Several others are equally excellent performers in making rods, tackle, and flies; among whom may be mentioned Bowness, Willingham, Ustonson, and Holmes, all of London.

“The beauty of fishing is to do the business quick (though not in a hurry), because this sport is every moment dependent on the weather. Walton says, “before using, soak what lengths of gut you have in water for half-an-hour.” In the new school, I should rather say, draw what lengths you want through Indian rubber for half-a-quarter of a minute. Let a gut length or two (ready fitted up with flies), and also a few spare tail flies be thus prepared to go on in an instant, and put round your hat. For flies (as Barker observes for his night angling), take white for darkness; red in medio; and black for lightness. The Yellow Dun* and Red Palmer, which has a black head, partake a little of all, and therefore, with the addition of a White Moth for dark nights, the angler may, in what few rivers I have ever fished, do vastly well. No doubt, however, that an occasional variety of flies might answer a little better, and particularly if these had been too much hacknied by other people. But in the long run, I have never found sufficient advantage from variety to be troubled with taking more than

* The Yellow Dun is a beautiful insect, and is to be used in the morning and evening, during the months of April and May, and again in September. The body is made of yellow yarn unravelled, and mixed with a little pale ash-coloured fur; the wings from the under part of a snipe's wing, to be made upright, with a pale dun hackle for legs.

two or three kinds of flies. And as to carrying, as many do, a huge book of flies, nearly as large as a family bible, for common Trout streams—it is like a beginner in drawing, who uses twenty cakes of colour or more, where a quarter the number, if properly managed, would answer the same purpose. The Piscator, however, has a right to take what he pleases. He may go to the river side with a book of this sort, or even twelve pounds of lead in his pocket; they will both, perhaps, be equally necessary. But who has a right to find fault? If he is determined to go well laden to the river—why let him. With regard to hooks, I have always found the Irish ones far superior to ours. The best, I believe, are bought in Limerick.

“Now I have given the outline as to tackle, I will proceed as to throwing; not in my chair, with a pen and ink; but with a pencil and a book, on the banks of the river.

“**THROWING A FLY.**—I am just returned from the river (and, by the way, not badly repaid for my trouble), and as near as I could there bring the matter to paper, shall now say as follows: In throwing a fly, raise the arm well up, without labouring with your body. Send the fly both backwards and forwards by a sudden spring of the wrist. Do not draw the fly too near, or you lose your purchase for

sending it back, and therefore require an extra sweep in the air before you can get it into play again. If, after sending it back, you make the counter-spring a moment too soon, you will whip off your tail fly, and if a moment too late your line will fall in a slovenly manner. The knack of catching this time is, therefore, the whole art of throwing well. The motion should be just sufficiently circular to avoid this; but if too circular, the spring receives too much check, and the gut will then most probably not drop before the line. In a word, allow the line no more than just time to unfold before you repeat the spring of the wrist. This must be done or you will hear a crack, and find that you have whipped off your tail fly. For this reason, I should recommend beginners to learn at first with only a bob; or they will soon empty their own or their friend's fishing book. And at all events, to begin learning with a moderate length of line.

“I have observed that those young men who have supple wrists, and the power to whip off flies, ultimately make better anglers than those who do not, because in this action, like most things, there is really but one step between the sublime and the ridiculous; and the poor fellow who makes no attempt with energy, will most probably, in this, as in other pursuits, remain all his life in the back ground.

“Walton, in speaking of throwing a fly, says, “we should fish fine and far off;” but we must except very windy weather, or the result of a very long line may, with a very good angler, be crack and whip off. If, therefore, you have got into a particular current of wind, where this is the case, wind up your line a few turns, or you may soon lose another fly. Sometimes the wind blows very strong, directly across you from the right, insomuch that it becomes an exertion to raise the rod enough to prevent the line from being blown back. Throwing with the left hand is then a convenience; but for those who are not able to do this, I can suggest no better makeshift than to raise the rod over the left shoulder, and throw the line by a motion similar to that used with a whip, when lightly hitting a leader on the near side. (Any one who has driven in double reins will know what I mean.) I make a point of killing some fish this way, in order to try the experiment, which is, of course, a mere substitute for the best method of throwing. So much for throwing. Now for what few finishing touches I can think of. Avoid, if you can, going too close to the edge of the water. Throw, if you are *au fait* enough to do it well, rather for the fly to become, for a moment, suspended across the wind, than directly down the wind; as it then falls still lighter,

and from this circumstance, is, of course, more likely to deceive a large fish. Prefer dropping the fly just under a bush or edge, or in an eddy, to the open river, because your line is then more obscured from the light, and the largest fish generally monopolize the possession of such places, in order to find and devour the more flies and insects; and, also, to be near their places of security. If the spot is quite calm, watch the first good fish that rises, avail yourself immediately of the ripple that has been made by the fish himself, and drop in your fly a little above where he last rose. Never let your line lie too long, as, by so doing, you either expose your tackle to the fish by leaving it stationary, or draw the line in so close, that you lose both the power of striking your fish, if he rises, and that of getting a good sweep for your next throw. The first fall of the fly, in fishing, is like the first sight of a bird in presenting a gun—always the best.

“KILLING YOUR FISH.—A small fish is, of course, not even worth the wear and tear of a reel. But if you happen to hook a good one, wind up immediately; and the moment you have got him under command of a short line, hold your rod well on the bend, with just purchase enough to keep him from going under a weed, or rubbing out your hook by boring his nose into the gravel. (Observe

a fish, and you will always perceive, that after he finds he is your prisoner, he does all he can to get down, as the best means of escape.) After getting your fish under the command of a short line and well-bent rod, let him run, and walk by the side of him, keeping a delicate hold of him, with just purchase enough, as I before observed, to prevent his going down. When he strikes, ease him at the same instant; and when he becomes faint, pull him gently down stream; and, as soon as you have overpowered him, get his nose up to the top of the water; and when he is nearly drowned, begin to tow him gently towards the shore. Never attempt to lift him out of the water by the line, but haul him on to some sloping place, then stick the pike of your rod in the ground, with the rod a little on the bend; crawl sliely up as quick as possible, and put your hands under him, and not too forward, as a Trout thus situated is apt to slip back; so that handling him this way must be rather a different touch from that of weed-groping. If you use a landing net (which, for saving time, and particularly where the banks are steep, is sometimes a necessary appendage), let it be as light as possible, very long in the handle, and three times as large as what people generally carry. Take care that neither that nor the man who may assist you with it, goes

even in sight of the water till the fish is brought well to the surface, and fairly within reach; and then you have only to put the net under him, or keep his eyes above water, and tow him into it. Mind this, or the landing net and your man will prove enemies, instead of assistants, to your sport. Nothing will so soon, or suddenly, rouse a sick fish as the sight of a man, or a landing net.

“ With regard to the time and weather for fishing, it is now well known to almost every school-boy. But it may be proper just to observe, that however favourable the time may be to all appearance, yet Trout will seldom rise well just before rain, or when they have been filled by a glut of flies. Moreover, Trout will frequently cease to rise well, even at the best of times, from being every day whipped at by anglers from the same bank. My plan, in this case, is to go to the opposite side, and throw against (or rather under) the wind. A friend and I once caught two and twenty brace by this means, while a whole tribe of professed anglers, who were fishing from the windward side, caught (as we afterwards heard) but three fish between them.”

An experienced fly-fisher will use three or four flies at the same time: the leading fly should be fastened to the gut bottom by a water knot, in preference to a loop; the first dropper about a yard

from the leading fly; the second dropper about eighteen inches above the first, and the third, if required, about a foot from the second. It may be observed, that flies of an orange or yellow colour may be used with success at the clearing of rivers after they have been disturbed by heavy rain; such as the Cowdung, Fern Fly, Cadis, &c.

“ Now when the first foul torrent of the brooks,
Swell'd with the vernal rains, is ebb'd away;
And, whit'ning, down their mossy tintured stream
Descends the billowy foam : now is the time,
While yet the dark brown water aids the guile,
To tempt the Trout. The well dissembled fly,
The rod fine tapering with elastic spring,
Snatch'd from the hoary steed the floating line,
And all thy slender wat'ry stores prepare.”

Thomson.

“ After giving ample instructions for the preparation of the tackle requisite for fly-fishing, the first point that presents itself for the consideration of the angler, as to his movements, is, which bank of the river he is to go down; and this often proves of more moment than may at first sight be apparent. He generally arrives on the banks of the river where there is a bridge, and has then a choice in his power. If he be on known ground, of course he has no difficulty in deciding. If a stranger to the river, the case is different; and as his day's sport, or, at any rate, a large portion of his time depends on his decision, he should ponder well. In the absence of

other considerations, in a stream running east or west, I would prefer the north side, to avoid having your own shadow, and that of your rod, cast on the stream, in case of sunshine, and to make in any event a less conspicuous figure. In streams lying north and south, I would prefer the east side for the same reason; both because the sun is generally pretty well south before the fisher begins his sport, and because the afternoon may be considered the most valuable part of the day. In a wide river you must, of course, choose the bank on which you have access to the best streams. In one which can be fished across, if a still and oozy river, choose the side opposite to the favourite bank, because a hollow bank is best fished from the further shore. But if it should abound with rapid streams, choose the bank under which the fish harbour, because flies cannot be kept stationary for a sufficient length of time across a rapid run which is at any distance from you. In the absence of any of these considerations, and if ignorant of the localities, prefer the bank on which the path seems most frequented. Where bridges are frequent, or the stream shallow, the decision on this point may be of little consequence: but on deep and formidable streams, with few bridges or fords, the angler will find it worthy of some reflection, else the consequence may be that

he will find his forenoon spent rather as if he were beating for woodcocks than fishing for Trout.

MATERIALS FOR MAKING ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

“ To frame the little animal provide
All the gay hues that wait on female pride ;
Let nature guide thee. Sometimes golden wire
The shining bellies of the fly require ;
The peacock’s plumes thy tackle must not fail,
Nor the dear purchase of the sable’s tail.
Each gaudy bird some slender tribute brings,
And lends the growing insect proper wings ;
Silks of all colours must their aid impart,
And every fur promote the fisher’s art.”

Gay.

The articles necessary for the fly maker to be furnished with, are, a variety of feathers of every colour, from the most gaudy to the most dusky tinge ; particularly hackle feathers from the domestic cock and hen ; hackles and wings of the bittern, mallard, grouse, pheasant, woodcock, partridge, snipe, landrail, plover, starling, thrush, blackbird, swallow, fieldfare, and watercoot. The fur of seals, squirrels, moles, water-rats, and hare’s ears in the natural state, and dyed yellow ; camlets and goat’s hair, commonly called mohair, of every colour ; the latter is serviceable in all flies, as it prevents the fur of which the bodies are made from absorbing too much moisture. Ostrich and peacock’s harl is also requisite, the former of every possible colour. Provide

also gold and silver flatted wire or twist; sewing silk of every colour, and of different thicknesses; a pair of sharp-pointed scissors, and a pair of small spring pliers are absolutely necessary.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING, TYING, OR DRESSING THE ARTIFICIAL FLY.

After having enumerated the materials for making the artificial fly, we will proceed to give directions for its formation. Whether a common hackle or winged fly is to be manufactured, it is invariably necessary to have the whole of the materials in readiness previous to commencing operations; viz. the hackles stripped of the soft fibres which grow near the quill; the gut carefully selected and examined; the dubbing mixed to the exact colour of the body of the natural fly; the silk, of the same colour as the body, well waxed; and the hooks properly selected in point of size.

Every thing being thus prepared, the hook must be tied to the finest end of the gut; beginning, if for a hackle fly, at the bend, and working towards the end of the shank; within a few turns of which the hackle must be fastened in, and the winding of the silk continued until it reaches the end; when, by two or three turns back again, towards the hackle, the head of the fly will be formed. The dubbing

must now be twisted round the silk and wrapped on the hook about half the proposed length of the body, when it may be fastened by a single loop, in order that both hands may be at liberty for the better management of the hackle. When sufficient feather is wound upon the hook, the remaining part should be held firmly under the thumb of the left hand, and the fibres which may be entangled picked out by a needle; the silk, with the dubbing, must then be wound over the end of the hackle, which the thumb kept down, until the body of the fly is of the size required, and then fasten. If gold or silver twist be necessary, fasten it at the lower end of the body before you apply the dubbing to the silk, and, after forming the body with the dubbing, wind the twist neatly over it, but not too close.

To make a winged fly, the same method may be observed in tying on the hook; then take the feather which is to form the wings, and place it even on the the upper side of the shank, with the roots pointed towards the bend of the hook; after fastening the feather by winding the silk over it, cut the root ends close with a pair of scissors, and divide the wings as equally as possible with a needle, passing the silk twice or thrice between them, which will make them stand in a proper position; then carry the silk from the wings down the shank of the hook, about

the proposed length of the body, and, after fastening, apply the dubbing to the silk, and form the body by warping towards the wings; when within a turn or two of the wings, fasten in the hackle for legs, and wind it neatly under the wings so as to hide the ends of the cut fibres; fasten above the wings.

No directions can well be given for making a fly, the way in which it is done varying according to the fancy of the artist; yet these instructions, with a little practice, will assist an ingenious angler. It is strongly recommended to the young angler, attentively to watch some skilful fly-maker, and in the progress of his work, make such inquiries and observations as he may deem requisite; from which greater facility and neatness are to be acquired than from any written description whatever.

A DESCRIPTION OF ALL THE ARTIFICIAL FLIES USED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

RED FLY.—No. 1.*

This fly, which is the first for the season, appears about the middle of February, and continues on the water till April. It has four wings, and generally flutters on the surface of the water. It is thus

* These numbers refer to the Flies in the Frontispiece.

made artificially ; the wings of a dark drake's feather, the body of the red fur of a squirrel, and a red cock's hackle wrapped twice or thrice under the wings for legs ; the hook No. 7 or 8. This fly is to be fished with from ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon.

BLUE DUN.—No. 2.

This fly is found on most rivers, and is in appearance one of the most delicate insects that frequent the water ; and, what is rather extraordinary, it is more numerous, and the fish take it best, in dark cold weather, being but seldom seen when mild and warm. It appears early in March, and is a good fly throughout the year. The wings stand upright on the body, and are to be made of a feather from a starling's wing, or a pale blue feather from under the wing of a duck widgeon ; the body of the blue fur of a fox, or water rat, or squirrel, mixed with a small proportion of yellow or lemon-coloured mohair ; and a fine blue cock's hackle for legs ; the tail is forked, and is to be formed with two fibres from the same feather as the wings are made of ; the hook No. 9. It may be used from ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon ; but the best time of the day is from twelve till two, particularly in March and April.

MARCH BROWN.—No. 3.

About the middle of March this very excellent fly makes its appearance, and continues till the end of April. The wings are upright, and made of a feather from a pheasant's wing, or a dark mottled feather from the tail of a partridge; the body of fur from a hare's ear, mixed with squirrel's fur, and ribbed up with yellow silk, or hare's fur, mixed with a little yellow worsted; a partridge's or grizzled cock's hackle for legs; and two fibres of the feather which compose the wings to form the tail; the hook No. 7 or 8. This fly may be used with great success in warm gloomy days, from eleven o'clock till three; and when the Brown fly is on the water the fish will refuse all other kinds. There cannot be too much said in commendation of this fly, both for its duration, and the extraordinary sport it affords the angler. A reduced fly, of the same form and materials, will be found very killing in the month of August.

COWDUNG FLY.—No. 4.

This fly will be found on the excrement of cattle, about the same time as the Brown fly appears on the water; the principal time to angle with it is from its first appearance to the end of April, although it

will raise fish until September. The wings lie flat on the body, and are made of a feather from the wing of a landrail; the body of lemon-coloured mohair, mixed with a little brown fur to give it a dusky appearance; and a ginger hackle for legs; the hook No. 8. This fly is chiefly to be used in cold stormy days, as it is seldom seen upon the water unless driven there by high winds.

STONE FLY.—No. 5.

In the beginning of April the Stone Fly escapes from the husk, or case, before its wings are sufficiently grown to enable it to fly, and creeps to crevices in stones, from which circumstance its name is derived. It is seldom in perfection before the beginning of May. The wings, which are four in number, lie flat on the back, and are made of a dusky blue cock's hackle, or a mottled feather from a hen pheasant, or peahen; the body of dark brown and yellow camlet or mohair mixed, and a grizzled hackle for legs; the hook No. 4 or 5. This fly may be used at any time in the day, and will be found very destructive in the most rapid parts of rivers and small brooks.

GRANAM, or GREEN-TAIL.—No. 6.

If the weather be warm, this fly makes its

appearance in the beginning of April, and it continues on the water about a fortnight ; it is a delicate fly, and but seldom seen on cold days. It derives the name of Green-Tail from a bunch of eggs, of a green colour, which it deposits on the water while floating on the surface. The wings lie flat on the body, and are made of a shaded feather from the wing of a partridge or hen pheasant ; the body of the dark fur of a hare's ear, and a yellowish grizzled cock's hackle for legs ; a small quantity of bright green wax (or green harl from the eye of a peacock's tail), about the size of a pin's head, may be applied to the lower part of the body, after the fly is completed, for the tail, and it has a very natural appearance ; the hook No. 9. This fly is to be fished with from seven o'clock in the morning till eleven, at which time the March Brown comes on, and so long as the Brown continues, the fish will not take the Granam ; from five in the evening till dark it may again be used with success.

SPIDER FLY.—No. 7.

This fly appears in the middle of April, and continues about a fortnight ; and at this period the gravel or sand, near the water side, in which these insects are bred, is covered by incalculable numbers.

It is an extremely delicate fly, and therefore seldom visible on cold days, although it is known to meet with the greatest success when rather cold. The wings are made of a feather from the wing of a woodcock, or landrail, the body of lead-coloured silk, with a black cock's hackle, or ostrich's harl, wrapped under the wings; the hook No. 9 or 10. It may be fished with at any time of the day.

BLACK GNAT.—No. 8.

About the same time as the Spider Fly appears the Black Gnat, and it continues till the end of May. The body is made of black ostrich's harl, and the wings of a dusky or pale dun cock's hackle, or a pale starling's feather; it must be dressed rather short and thick; the hook No. 10; it is to be used in cold stormy days. This is a favourite fly with some persons, and is generally considered a good killer, especially when the water is low.

BLACK CATERPILLAR.—No. 9.

This insect appears early in May, and remains about a fortnight. The wings are made of a feather from a jay's wing, the body of black ostrich's harl, with a brownish or black cock's hackle for legs; the hook No. 8. It is to be used in the evening, after a warm day, and is very killing in small rivers.

LITTLE IRON BLUE.—No. 10.

In cold stormy days, about the tenth of May, this fly frequents the water in considerable numbers, and continues till the middle of June. Its wings stand upright, and are made of a dusky feather from under the wing of a blue hen, or cormorant, or a feather from the tail of a tomtit; the body of water rat's fur, ribbed with yellow silk, or pale blue fur, ribbed with purple silk, and a blue cock's hackle for legs; the tail is forked, and the same colour as the wings; the hook No. 10. This is a very neat small fly, and cannot be dressed too fine; it is to be fished with from eleven o'clock in the morning till five in the afternoon.

YELLOW SALLY.—No. 11.

The Yellow Sally, or Little May Fly, may be seen early in May, and it continues till the end of June; it resembles the May Fly, or Cadow, in shape, but is much smaller. The wings are made of a white cock's hackle dyed yellow, and the body of yellow worsted unravelled, and mixed with a small portion of fur from a hare's ear; the hook No. 9 or 10. This fly will sometimes be successful previous to the appearance of the Cadow. But in those rivers where the Cadow is abundant, fly-fishing may

be said to be in abeyance for a fortnight before its appearance; the fish are then no doubt feeding upon it at the bottom.

CANON, or DOWN-HILL FLY.—No. 12.

This fly is frequently seen on the trunks of oak, ash, and willow trees; it is invariably found with its head pointing downwards, from which circumstance it derives the appropriate name of the Down-hill Fly. It appears about the twentieth of May, and continues about a week in June. The wings lie flat on the back, and are made with a feather from the wing of a partridge, or bittern; the head of fur from a hare's ear; the body of dun fur, mixed with a little orange and yellow mohair; the hook No. 8 or 9. This fly is bred in the oak apple, and, like the Cowdung, is seldom seen on the water. Two of these flies, when alive, are an excellent bait to use in bobbing or dibbing for Trout.

SHORN FLY.—No. 13.

The Shorn Fly, or Marlow Buz, appears on the water about the same time as the Canon, and continues till the end of July; it is a small caterpillar, with reddish-brown wings, and is frequently

seen in grass fields. There are three kinds, but the two following are the most useful. The wings of a red cock's hackle, and the body of peacock's harl; or thus, the wings of a dark blue cock's hackle, the body of peacock's harl, and a small bit of orange worsted at the tail; the hook No. 6 or 7. The Shorn Fly is in its greatest perfection in June, but it may be used successfully during the whole season; for the early spring it should be made larger; many anglers consider this the BEST Trout fly for general use of the whole catalogue, and always have one for a dropper. The first of these is much used in Wales, and is better known there by the name of Coch-a-bonddu, that is, red with a black body.

YELLOW MAY FLY, OR CADOW.—No. 14.

This is the most important fly for Trout fishing of any, because at this period the Trout is in its greatest perfection; it is bred from the cad-worm, and is found in considerable numbers at the sides of most small gravelly rivers, on bushes which overhang the water; to which places they resort when they change from their chrysalis state. Its wings, which are single, stand upright like the wings of a butterfly; the body is yellow (some are darker than others) ribbed with green; the tail consists of three dark

whisks, and is turned up towards the back; from the green stripes on its body, it is sometimes called the Green Drake. The naturalist may be highly gratified during a fine warm day, in the end of May, by observing the manner in which this singular insect breaks through and flies from the case in which it has been enveloped while in the state of a maggot. The wings are formed artificially of the light feather of a grey drake, or wild mallard, dyed yellow;* the body of yellow ram's wool, seals fur, or amber-coloured mahair, mixed with a little fox-down, or hog's wool, ribbed with pale yellow and green silk, or the feather of a heron or bittern, to imitate the legs and joints of the fly's body; the head of peacock's harl, and the tail of three long hairs from a sable muff, or the whiskers of a black cat; the hook No. 6. The body may also be made thus, and it has a more natural appearance than the preceding; in the first place, fasten near the bend of the hook a small thin piece of white Indian rubber, then warp

* The following are the most approved Receipts for staining feathers yellow;....Scrape a small quantity of the bark of the barberry tree, or bruise in a mortar the root, add to it a lump of alum, and two or three dozen grey feathers of a mallard; boil them in a pint of rain water, in an earthen pitcher, about an hour, and you will find them the colour you wish. Or,

Gamboge dissolved in spirits of wine, will impart a fine yellow to the feathers, if they be first boiled in strong alum water.

a little yellow cotton round the shank, the proper length of the body, and wind the Indian rubber neatly over it; fasten under the wings. This fly appears in the end of May, but the principal time for using it is from the first to the twelfth of June, from ten in the morning till seven in the evening.

GREY DRAKE.—No. 15.

This fly appears at the same time as the last mentioned, and very much resembles it in shape. The wings are made of a dark grey feather of a mallard; the body of light goat's hair, or white ostrich's harl, striped with dark silk; the legs of a grizzled cock's hackle; the head of peacock's harl, and the tail of three hairs from a sable muff or fitchew's tail; the hook No. 6. Some anglers vary the body of this fly by warping with ash-coloured silk and silver twist. It is chiefly to be fished with in the evening, after the yellow May Fly has disappeared, that is, from seven o'clock till dark.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON EPHEMERAL FLIES, APPLIED PARTICULARLY TO THE TWO PRECEDING.

“This species of insect is named ephemeral, because of its very short existence in the fly state.

It is one of the most beautiful species of flies, and undergoes five changes. At first the egg contains its vital principle; it comes forth a small caterpillar, which is transformed into a chrysalis, then into a nympha, and lastly into a fly, which deposits its eggs upon the surface of the water, where the sun's rays bring them to life. Each egg produces a little red worm, which moves in a serpentine manner; as soon as the cold weather sets in, this little worm makes for itself a shell, or lodging, where it passes the winter; at the end of which it ceases to be a worm, and enters into its third state, that of a chrysalis. It then sleeps till spring, and gradually becomes a beautiful nympha, or a sort of mummy, something in the form of a fish. At the time of its metamorphosis the nympha at first seems inactive and lifeless; in six days the head appears, raising itself gradually above the surface of the water; the body next disengages itself slowly and by degrees, till at length the whole animal comes out of its shell. The new-born fly remains for some minutes motionless upon the water; then gradually revives, and feebly shakes its wings, then moves them quicker and attempts first to walk, then to fly. As these insects are all hatched nearly at the same time, they are seen in swarms for a few hours flitting and playing upon the surface of the water.

The male and female then unite and couple together for two more hours, when they again return to their sports, lay their eggs, and soon after die. Thus they terminate their short life in the space of a few hours, and the same day that saw them born witnesses their death. *Sturm.*

ORL FLY.—No. 16.

During the whole of June this fly may be seen playing upon the top of the water, and is a good killer at all hours of the day, especially after the May Fly is gone. It has four wings lying flat on the back, and which should be made of a dark grizzled cock's hackle, or a feather from the wing of a brown hen; the body of peacock's harl, worked with dark red silk, or the fur from a brown spaniel, mixed with a little dark red mohair, and ribbed with orange silk; the hook No. 7. This fly is principally used in warm weather, and when the water is not very low.

SKY BLUE.—No. 17.

This fly also appears early in June, and continues till the middle of July. The wings stand upright and are made of the light blue feather of a hen, or

from the wing of a sea swallow; the body of pale yellow mohair, mixed with a little light blue fur, and a yellow cock's hackle for legs; the hook No. 9. This fly is only to be used when the water is very low and fine.

CADIS FLY.—No. 18.

About the twelfth of June this fly appears, and continues till the beginning of July; it is bred from the cadis or cod-bait. The wings are made of a feather from a buff-coloured hen; the body of buff mohair, warped with a pale yellow hackle; the hook No. 7. The Cadis is a fly worth but little notice, as there are many others on the water at the same time which are far preferable; it is chiefly used at the clearing of the river after it has been disturbed.

FERN FLY.—No. 19.

This fly appears about the middle of June, and continues good till the middle of July. The wings are made of a woodcock's feather, or the under part of a throstle, or fieldfare's wing; the body of orange-coloured silk, and a pale dun hackle for legs; the hook No. 6 or 7. It is a very killing fly, and may be used at any time in the day.

RED SPINNER.—No. 20.

The Red Spinner appears about the middle of June, and is a good fly till the end of August. The wings are made of a dark brown feather of a drake; the body of the red fur of a squirrel, ribbed with gold twist, and a red cock's hackle for legs; the tail is forked, and of the fibres of a red hackle. It may be varied thus:—the wings of a feather from the wing of a starling, the body of dull red mohair, &c. as above. The hook No. 8 or 9. This is an excellent fly, but most killing when the water is dark, and late in the evening after a hot day.

BLUE GNAT.—No. 21.

This fly appears at the same time as the Red Spinner, and continues about a fortnight. The wings are made of a small blue cock's hackle, or a feather from a snipe's wing; the body of light blue fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair; the hook No. 11. It is also an excellent fly for Greyling in September and October, if the water is low and fine.

LARGE RED ANT.—No. 22.

If the weather be hot, this fly will be found on the water in the middle of June, and will remain till the end of July. The wings are made of a

starling's feather ; the body of copper-coloured peacock's harl, and a ginger cock's hackle for legs ; the hook No. 9. To be fished with from eleven o'clock in the forenoon till six in the evening ; and may be used in still water as well as in streams.

LARGE BLACK ANT.—No. 23.

About the same time as the Red appears the Large Black Ant. The wings are made of a very light sky blue hackle, or the lightest feather from under a snipe's wing ; the body of black ostrich's harl, and a black or reddish cock's hackle for legs ; The hook No. 9. This fly resembles the Red Ant in shape, and is to be used at the same period.

HAZEL FLY.—No. 24.

The Hazel Fly, or Welshman's Button, appears in the end of July, and remains about ten days. The wings are made of a red feather from the rump of a partridge (but not too dark), or wing of a landrail ; the body with peacock's and black ostrich's harl mixed, and a black or bluish cock's hackle for legs ; the hook No. 8. This insect is a small caterpillar, in form similar to a button ; it is equally valuable for bobbing or dibbing with, as for fly-fishing.

LITTLE RED ANT.—No. 25.

This fly appears about the twelfth of August, and remains on the water till the end of September. The wings are made of a starling's feather; the body of peacock's harl, with a ginger cock's hackle for legs; the hook No. 10. It is a good killer from eleven o'clock till six, particularly in warm gloomy days.

LITTLE BLACK ANT.—No. 25.

The Little Black Ant appears at the same time, and resembles in shape the Little Red Ant. The wings are made of a very light sky-blue cock's hackle; the body of black ostrich's harl, and a black or reddish cock's hackle for legs; the hook No. 10. This fly is to be used at the same time as the Little Red Ant.

WHIRLING BLUE.—No. 26.

This fly appears about the twelfth of August, and continues till the end of the season. The wings stand upright, and are made of a feather from the wing of a starling or jay; the body of squirrel's fur mixed with yellow mohair, and a red cock's hackle for legs; the tail the same colour as the wings; the hook No. 9. It is an excellent fly, and may be fished with at any time of the day.

LITTLE PALE BLUE.—No. 27.

This fly may be met with about the same time as the Whirling Blue, and continues till the end of the season. The wings are made of a feather from the wing of a sea swallow, the body of very pale blue fur, mixed with yellow mohair, and a pale blue hackle for legs; the hook No. 9. This fly is excellent for Greyling fishing, and may be used from ten in the morning till dark.

WILLOW FLY.—No. 28.

In the beginning of September this fly appears, and is very killing during the remainder of the season. The wing's are made of a dark grizzled cock's hackle; the body of blue squirrel's fur mixed with yellow mohair; the hook No. 8. This is a very destructive fly in stormy weather.

WHITE MOTH.—No. 29.

This moth appears in June and July, flitting about at the edge of night. The wings are made of a feather from the wing of a white owl; the body of white cotton, or white ostrich's harl, and a white cock's hackle wrapped over the body; the hook No. 3 or 4. This moth is only used in night

angling, and after this manner; the line should be strong and about a yard longer than the rod; on the bend of the hook put two or three maggots, or a well-scoured worm; then throw in the bait, either in a stream or still water, with as little noise as possible; and when you feel a bite, strike, and lift the fish out instantly. The best time for using this bait is in a dark gloomy night, from eleven o'clock till day break: if the stars or moon shine the attempt will be nearly fruitless.

BROWN MOTH.

This moth appears at the same time as the former. The wings are made of a feather from the brown owl; the body of brown mohair, with a grizzled or brown cock's hackle wrapped over the body; the hook No. 3 or 4. To be used precisely in the same manner as the White Moth.

DRAGON FLY, LIBELLA OR LIBELLULA.

This fly is used only in Salmon fishing; it frequents most rivers during the months of July and August. The head of this insect is a beautiful object for the microscope; it wears a mask as perfectly formed as those worn in a masquerade; and

this mask, fastened to its neck, and which it moves at will, serves to hold its prey while devouring it. This insect flies very swiftly, and feeds while on the wing, clearing the air of innumerable small flies. The wings are made of a reddish brown feather from the wing of a cock turkey, the body of auburn-coloured mohair warped with yellow silk, and a ginger cock's hackle wrapped under the wings; the hook No. 2 or 3. Or it may be varied thus; the wings of a rich brown feather from a heron's wing; the body drab, or olive-coloured mohair, a bittern's hackle under the wings, and a forked tail. This fly is about two inches in length.

KING'S FISHER, OR PEACOCK FLY.

This is also a Salmon fly, and is seen at the same time as the Dragon Fly. The wings are made of a feather from the neck or tail of a peacock; the body of deep green mohair, warped with light green silk; and a jay's feather striped blue and white, wrapped under the wings; the hook No. 2 or 3. It may be thus varied; the wings of a dark shining green feather from a drake's wing; the body of green mohair warped with chocolate silk; and a bittern's hackle under the wings.

PALMER WORMS.

The Palmer Worm is a small worm covered with hair, supposed to be so called because it wanders over all plants. There are several kinds used for fishing; the following are the most killing.

RED PALMER.—No. 30.

The body of the Red Palmer is made with dark red mohair, ribbed with gold twist, and warped with a blood red cock's hackle over the whole body; the hook No. 6 or 7.

GOLDEN PALMER.

The body of orange-coloured silk, ribbed with peacock's harl and gold twist, and warped with a red cock's hackle.

BROWN PALMER.

The body of amber-coloured hog's down, ribbed alternately with gold and silver twist, and warped with a red cock's hackle.

BLACK PALMER.

The body of black ostrich's harl, ribbed with silver twist, and warped with a black cock's hackle.

These Palmers will kill fish every month from February to October, and are to be used in the same manner as the artificial flies.

Captain Hazard considers the following observations on Fly-fishing, as the grand *arcanum* of the art; at all events they are very concise, and well worthy the notice of the most skilful angler.

“February and March.—Dark blue hackle, a body of the fur of the hare’s ear, tied with yellow silk well waxed.

About the 20th of March—use a lighter hackle with the same body.

2nd.—Dun or blue hackle, the body of water-rat’s fur—the hackle rather lighter than the former.

3rd.—The same hackle with squirrel fur body—the fur from the back of the squirrel, a mixture of brown and blue:—or, change the body to yellow silk only, which in fine clear weather kills well.

Lastly.—for the months of May, June and July, the red cock’s hackle, the body of peacock’s harl (the copper-colour), and ribbed with gold plate. This fly will kill in the brightest day and fine water. Hooks No. 8, 9, and 10.

I never use wing flies—if the hackle be good, when wet, it forms a wing.—The finer the water, the finer the flies.”

WORM-FISHING.

“ You must not every worm promiscuous use ;
Judgment will tell the proper bait to chuse ;
The worm that draws a long immod’rate size
The Trout abhors, and the rank morsel flies ;
And if too small, the naked fraud’s in sight,
And fear forbids, while hunger does invite.
Those baits will best reward the fisher’s pains,
Whose polish’d tails a shining yellow stains ;
Cleanse them from filth, to give a tempting gloss,
Cherish the sullied reptile race with moss ;
Amid the verdant bed they twine, they toil,
And from their bodies wipe their native soil.”

Gay.

WORM-FISHING begins early in February, and is good throughout the year. During spring worms may be used any time of the day ; when the summer is advanced, only early in the morning and late in the evening ; and in the autumn they may again be used all day ; if the rivers are disturbed, this is the only bait that can be used at all. The necessary tackle for worm-fishing is described on page 25 ; and, as this bait is most killing in rapid streams, the lead should be sufficiently heavy to keep the bait on the ground. A float is quite unnecessary, unless you angle in ponds or still water. There are several kinds of worms fit for the angler’s purpose ; the following are the most useful.

LOBWORMS. These worms, which are the largest used in angling, are generally found in gardens, in damp evenings, during the spring and summer, on

the surface of the earth in great quantities; or they may be procured by digging in any place where manure has laid for any length of time; they may also be got by infusing bruised walnut-tree leaves, or salt, in water, and strewing it upon the ground; they then soon come to the surface. These worms are good baits for Salmon, Trout, Barbel, Eels, and large Perch; they are particularly adapted for laying night-lines for Eels during the summer months.

RED WORMS are a smaller species of lobworms, and are usually found in similar places, or in old rotten dunghills; they are an excellent bait when taken from a good dry loamy soil, being then of a strong red colour throughout. Some red worms are more yellow than others towards their tails, and which are generally to be preferred. These are the most killing worms of any for Carp, Tench, Barbel, Chub, Dace, Perch, Trout, Eels, Gudgeons, Bream, &c. Too much praise cannot be given to red worms, indeed hardly any fish will refuse them, especially during spring, autumn, and winter.

BRANDLINGS are striped with red and yellow across the whole body, they are chiefly found in dunghills where the dung of horses, cows, and pigs

is mixed together; the largest and best are to be met with in tanner's bark after it is thrown by; they should be kept several days in moss, to scour out the bitter pungent mixture with which they abound.

MARSH WORMS are so called from their being partial to low marshy places; they are tolerably good baits, but very tender; however they generally become more tough after a few days scouring among moss, and, if not then tough enough, they may be scalded in milk; in colour they are dark brown, with a bluish gloss, and red heads; they are good for Trout and Perch.

TO CLEANSE OR SCOUR WORMS.

The best method of cleansing or scouring worms is by putting them into damp moss in an earthen jar; the moss should be fresh gathered, and all the earthly particles well washed out, then squeeze it, but not too dry, and put both moss and worms into the jar, changing the moss every three days in summer, and once a week in winter. If the worms look sickly, wash the moss and sprinkle a table-spoon full of new milk over it, this will revive them. The following is an excellent plan to preserve a

stock of worms for several months;—procure them in March or April; take a pound of beef or mutton suet, chop it into small pieces, and put it into a saucepan with about a quart of water; let it boil until the suet is dissolved; then take a piece of hop-sack, or other very coarse cloth, wash it clean and let it dry; dip it in the liquor, and wring it, but not so as to press all out; put the worms in this cloth when dry, and lay them by in an earthen pot. After the worms have remained in this state two days, it becomes necessary to wash the cloth and again dip it in the liquor as before; this should be repeated every three or four days during the heat of summer. The jar must be kept in a cool damp place. Observe, that the lobworms, red worms, and marsh worms, will bear more scouring than any others, and are better for long keeping. When worms are taken out for angling, put them in fresh moss that has been washed, and not wrung quite dry.

MAGGOT-FISHING.

MAGGOTS, or gentles, can seldom be procured before the beginning of May; they are certainly the best and most killing ground bait of any; they may be bred from any animal substance, either flesh

or fowl, by exposing it for the flies to blow on during spring and summer. After they are full grown put them in a vessel containing a quantity of bran and house sand mixed; the sand should be damp, or otherwise the maggots in summer will soon enter into their chrysalis state, when they are of no use to the angler. A correspondent, upon whose veracity we can rely, informs us that having to start early upon a fishing excursion, he prepared over night a bag of maggots, all of which were quite lively, but on opening the bag at the water-side the next day, he was much annoyed to find them nearly all in a dormant state. With a view to cool and preserve lively what few maggots were left, he dipped the bag into the river, and on looking at them an hour afterwards, he found the whole of them quite lively again, as on the previous night. The tackle proper for maggot-fishing is described on page 27.

TO PRESERVE MAGGOTS IN WINTER.

In the beginning of November procure a beef's liver, or two or three sheep's heads, and expose them for the flies to blow on; and when the fly-blows are become full-grown maggots, put them, together with the remains of the liver or heads,

into a cask or large jar, having first strewed in the cask a little fresh mould, mixed with half-dried cowdung, and then put the same quantity of mould and dung over them; keep them in a cool place, and when the mould becomes dry at the top sprinkle a little water over it. As maggots are so valuable a bait, the angler should not object taking a little trouble to procure them; and by observing these directions, he may be well supplied in February and March, at which time they are particularly useful.

WASP-GRUB-FISHING.

The wasp-grub is a very choice bait, and which many fish take extremely eager. To prevent them from coming forward too fast, keep the wasp-comb in a very cool place; or bake them a little in a half-cooled oven; or smoke the upper side of the comb with sulphur; and, for immediate use, boil them about three or four minutes, putting them into the water when boiling.

COD-BAIT-FISHING.

The cod-bait, or cad, is principally to be found at the sides of gravelly or stony brooks, on the bottom, in small husks composed of sand; the largest are most fit for use, and which generally adhere to

the stones. This insect produces the Stone Fly, and is about three quarters of an inch in length; it is an excellent bait for Trout, Greyling, Roach, Dace, or Chub, from the middle of May till June. The line for this purpose should be fine, and a No. 4 hook leaded on the shank; when you bait with it you must carefully break the case in which it is enclosed; put two on, one to cover the leaded shank of the hook, and the other to cover the point and bend. The way of using this bait is by sinking and drawing, that is, moving it continually up and down within a foot of the bottom.

There is a great advantage in this mode of angling, inasmuch as it enables the angler to fish in holes in rivers encumbered with bushes; also, in bubbles, curls, and other places in which he cannot angle with any other bait, and where generally the largest fish lie. This bait is much improved by being kept in a linen bag for a few days, dipping the same in water at least once a day. It may be made artificially with straw-coloured silk on the shank of the hook, putting only one cod-bait upon the bend.

GRASSHOPPER-FISHING.

Grasshoppers are very abundant during the months of June, July, and August. It is a capital

bait, and is to be used precisely in the same way as the cod-bait; it will take many kinds of fish.

The fly called Harry-long-legs is equally as good a bait as the grasshopper, and may be fished with in the same way. Both these baits are readily procured by persons residing in the country, and are easily kept alive in a tin box, having holes in the top to give them air, with a few green leaves. Some anglers make both artificially, but the live baits are always to be preferred.

CABBAGE-GRUB-FISHING.

There are three kinds of cabbage grubs, the green, the speckled, and the brown; all which the fish are remarkably fond of; they appear in gardens in June, and continue successively till October. These are to be fished with in the same way as the cod-bait and grasshopper.

PASTES, &c.

Paste is a general bait for many kinds of fish, but it requires care and skill in using it, and must be made with clean hands.

Sweet paste for Carp, Tench, Chub, and Roach, is made of the crumb of white bread, dipped in honey, and worked with the fingers in the palm of the hand until it is of a proper consistency. When

honey cannot be procured, you may use lump sugar dissolved in warm water, which will answer nearly as well.

Plain paste is made of white bread dipped in water, then squeezed as dry as possible, and worked as above until it becomes very smooth and stiff. This paste is valuable, because it is easily made while at the water side.

A paste made of old rotten Cheshire cheese and the crumb of white bread is an excellent bait, particularly for Chub.

A good paste for Barbel may be made by dipping the crumb of white bread in water that chandler's greaves have been boiled in, and kneaded stiff. A small quantity of the greaves may be mixed with the bread.

When paste is angled with for Carp, Bream, and Chub, let the bait be of the size of a hazel nut; but for Roach and Dace, the size of a large pea. Paste is considered more attractive when a little vermillion is mixed with it, to make it of a pale pink colour.

Salmon spawn is described by some writers as a superior bait for Trout, Chub, Roach, &c. the best way to preserve it is this:—take a pound of spawn, put it in warm water, and carefully wash from it all the particles of skin and blood; then rinse it by pouring on cold water; and hang it up in a bag to

drain for twenty-four hours; then put to it about two ounces of bay salt and a quarter of an ounce of saltpetre, and hang it up again for twenty-four hours more; then spread it on a dish to dry, in the sun or before the fire, until it becomes stiff; and then put it into a small jar, and run melted suet on the top; the jar must be covered with a bladder to keep out the air. If this be put in a dry cool place it will keep good for two years.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE WEATHER.

As the sport of the angler in a great measure depends on the weather, the following observations are here introduced that he may be enabled to form an opinion thereon.

DR. HERSCHEL'S WEATHER TABLE.

The following Table, constructed upon philosophical considerations of the attraction of the sun and moon, in their several positions respecting the earth, and confirmed by experience of many years actual observations, furnishes the observer, without further trouble, with the knowledge of what kind of weather there is the greatest probability of succeeding, and that so near the truth, that it will in very few instances be found to fail.

| MOON, | SUMMER. | WINTER. |
|---|--|--|
| If it be a new or full moon, or the moon enters into the first or last quarter at the hour of 12 at noon | | |
| Or, between the hours of | | |
| 2 and 4 | Very rainy | Snow or rain |
| 4 and 6 | Changeable | Changeable |
| 6 and 8 | Ditto | Ditto |
| | Fair, if the wind be N. W. rainy if S or S. W. | Fair and frosty, if the wind be N. or N. E. rain and snow if S. or S. W. |
| 8 and 10 | Ditto | Ditto. |
| 10 night | Fair | Fair and Frosty. |
| 2 morning | Ditto | Hard frost, unless the wind be S. or W. |
| 2 and 4 | Cold and frequent showers .. | Snow and stormy. |
| 4 and 6 | Rain | Ditto. |
| 6 and 8 | Wind and rain | Stormy. |
| 8 and 10 | Changeable | Cold and rain if W. snow if E. |
| 10 and 12 | Frequent showers | Cold and high wind. |

BAROMETER.

The following rules may, in a certain degree, be relied on as corresponding generally in the concomitant changes in the barometer and the weather:—

1. *Generally*, the rising of the mercury indicates the approach of fair weather; the falling of it that of foul weather.

2. In hot weather the fall indicates thunder.

3. In winter the rise indicates frost, and in frost the fall indicates thaw, and the rise snow.

4. If fair or foul weather *immediately* follow the rise or fall, little of it is to be expected.

5. If fair or foul weather continue for some days, while the mercury is falling or rising, a continuance of the contrary weather will probably ensue.

6. An unsettled state of the mercury indicates changeable weather.

By these rules it will be seen that the words engraved on the plate are frequently calculated to mislead the observer. Thus, if the mercury be at *much rain*, and rise to *changeable*, fair weather is to be looked for. Again, if it be at *set fair*, and fall to *changeable*, foul weather may be expected.

SIGNS OF RAIN.

Forty reasons for not accepting the invitation of a friend to make an excursion with him.

BY THE LATE DR. JENNER.

1. The hollow winds begin to blow,
2. The clouds look black, the glass is low ;
3. The soot falls down, the spaniels sleep,
4. And spiders from their cobwebs peep.
5. Last night the sun went pale to bed,
6. The moon in haloes hid her head ;
7. The boding shepherd heaves a sigh,
8. For see a rainbow spans the sky :
9. The walls are damp, the ditches smell,
10. Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel.
11. Hark how the chairs and tables crack,
12. Old Betty's joints are on the rack ;
13. Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry ;
14. The distant hills are seeming nigh.
15. How restless are the snorting swine,
16. The busy flies disturb the kine ;
17. Low o'er the grass the swallow wings ;
18. The cricket, too, how sharp he sings ;
19. Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
20. Sits wiping o'er her whisker'd jaws.
21. Thro' the clear stream the fishes rise,
22. And nimbly catch th' incautious flies.
23. The glow-worms, numerous and bright,
24. Illum'd the dewy dell last night.
25. At dusk the squalid toad was seen,
26. Hopping and crawling o'er the green ;
27. The whirling wind the dust obeys,
28. And in the rapid eddy plays ;
29. The frog has changed his yellow vest,
30. And in a russet coat is drest.
31. Though June, the air is cold and chill,
32. The mellow blackbird's voice is shrill.
33. My dog, so alter'd in his taste,
34. Quits mutton bones on grass to feast ;
35. And see yon rooks, how odd their flight,
36. They imitate the gliding kite,

37. And seem precipitate to fall,
38. As if they felt the piercing ball.
39. 'Twill surely rain, I see with sorrow,
40. Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow.
-

We have now completed our undertaking; and having led our readers through a regular course of instruction, founded on experience, teaching the true art of making artificial and selecting natural baits, with a plain and comprehensive account of the best mode of so arranging all the necessary appendages of the art, as to secure to the adventurous fisherman the pleasures of his favourite amusement, in all seasons, regularly as they succeed each other; we take leave of our readers and pupils by quoting an extract from "Songs of the Chace."

"The Angler envies no man's joys
But his who gains the greatest sport;
With peace he dwells far from the noise
And bustling grandeur of a court "

APPENDIX.

FISHING STATIONS IN NORTH WALES.

*Abridged from a very interesting Hand Book to North Wales,
by William Cathrall.*

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THE *Conway* is the chief of the numerous rivers in this County. It flows about twenty miles, and is joined by many fine streams, such as the *Machno*, the *Ceirio*, and the *Llugwy*. The *Seiont* is a small and rapid stream, rising in a lake on the eastern side of Snowdon, and flowing towards the Lake of Llanberis. A similar stream, abounding in Salmon Trout, takes a course nearly parallel with it, and falls into the Menai.

Bettws-y-Coed, three miles south from Llanrwst, is near the confluence of the *Llugwy* and the *Conway*. There are several magnificent cascades, with good fishing grounds below the falls.

In the neighbourhood of *Capel Curig* are a great number of rivers and brooks, besides several noble lakes; and Salmon and Trout may be obtained in great plenty.

Bettws Garmon, near Caernarvon, is frequented both by anglers, on account of its excellent sport, and by artists, attracted by its picturesque and romantic scenery.

Llanvihangel-y-Pennant is situated on a beautiful stream in a valley, five miles from Tremadoc and *Llannor*, at the junction of two streams, two miles from Pwllheli. *Llanystyn-dwy*, six miles from the same place, stands in a fine vale, watered by the river *Dwyvawr*. *Trevriw*, between Aberconway and Llanrwst; *Dolgarrog*, on the *Conway*; *Yspytty Evan*, near its source; *Llanbedr* and *Dolwyddelan*, near Llanrwst, may also be named.

Pont Aberglaslyn Salmon Leap, more usually called the Devil's Bridge, is a remarkable spot. The river at this place abounds with Salmon and Trout. It is situated about a mile beyond Beddgelert. A few yards above the bridge the river is precipitated in a fall of eight or ten feet over a range of rocks. This cataract is the famous Salmon leap, and is only a few miles from the sea. Twenty or thirty heavy fish may be seen attempting to spring over this barrier within an hour. The general weight of Salmon caught here varies from one to eighteen pounds in August and September, but they are much larger in October.

The cataract of the *Llugwy*, a few miles from Llanrwst, affords good sport. The fish are smaller than those found in the Conway.

Snowdon is surrounded by numerous lakes, the whole of which, and the streams that issue from them, are bountifully stored with fish.

Ogwen Lake contains a great number of Trout of surpassing beauty of colour, and delicacy of flavour. They are externally of a bright yellow, and cut as red as Salmon in full season. The Ogwen also contains excellent Trout, Salmon and Eels.

Lake of Cwm Idwal, *Llyn Cwm Cowlyd*, *Llyn Gwynant*, *Llyn Llydau*, *Llyn Bochlywd*, and *Llyn-y-Dinas*, on the east of Snowdon, and *Llyn Ffynnon Llugwy*, are all well stored.

Nant Gwynant is a grand cascade, descending from Ffynnon Llâs, a large pool in one of the chasms of Snowdon. The fall is about three hundred feet, and forms the river Glaslyn. Near this is the vale of Nant Gwynant, containing two ponds, covering upwards of two thousand acres of ground. In both of these, and in the rivers, very fine fish may be found.

Llyn Cwellyn, in addition to a good stock of common Trout, is remarkable for its Red Char, a scarce species of fish, which may be caught plentifully during the winter season.

Llyn-y-Gader is a favourite station.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE *Dee*, the *Clwyd*, the *Elwy*, and the *Conway*, are the principal rivers. There are, however, in addition to these, many small streams descending from the mountains. Amongst the tributaries of the *Dee* (which enters the county near Corwen, and, after flowing through the vale of Llangollen, forms the boundary between England and Wales) are the *Alwen* to the West; the *Ceiriog*, a torrent from the slate

mountains in the Hundred of Chirk; the *Alyn*, which rises near Llandegla; and the *Clyweddog*, near Bangor.

The principal fishing stations of Denbighshire lie in the picturesque Vale of Llangollen. The river Dee, winding through it, presents in some places a broad and unruffled surface, and in others rushes impetuously over shelving rocks. In this river Salmon, Trout and Greyling are found in great abundance. The flies which may be used with most success are the Blue Dun, the Coch-y-bondy, the Iron Blue, the Pale Blue, and the Wren's Tail.

Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant is situated twelve miles from Oswestry, on the river Moch, and from its vicinity to the admired waterfall of *Pistill Rhaiadr*, is a place of much resort during the summer. Trout are found close under the fall (four miles from the village). The bridge just below is also a fine spot for angling.

Salmon, Trout, and Greyling may be taken at *Abergele*, near the Chester and Holyhead railway, where two tributaries of the Geleu, both excellent streams, meet; at *Glyn Traian*, on the Dee, at Llanarmon, four miles and a half from Ruthin; at Llangedwin, on the Tanat; and Llanelidan, in the vale of Clwyd.

Llangerniew, eight miles from Denbigh, on the Elwy, has several rivers in its vicinity, and is an excellent spot for angling. The same may be said of Cyfeiliog, on the Clwyd, near which are numerous small streams.

At Llanymynech, seven miles from Oswestry, are Trout and Samlets. This is a most inviting station. Within a few miles are the Tanat, the Cynlleth, and the junction of the Vyrnwy with the Severn.

Among other places where good sport will be found we may mention, *Dyffryn*, Llansilin, near Oswestry; Llanvair Clwyd, near Ruthin; Llanvair Tolhairn, at the confluence of the Elwy and Aled, seven miles from Abergele; *Pontruffydd*, at the meeting of the Clwyd and Wheeler; *Pentre Voelas*, on the Conway; and *Eidda*, at a distance of four miles; *Wigvair*, near St. Asaph; *Pont Ryd Meredydd*, on the Tanat; and *Gwytherin*, near Llanrwst, in the vicinity of three rivers (the Elwy, the Aled, and Alwen), and of three noble lakes.

Of the lakes of Denbighshire the following are the principal:—Llyn Alwen, Llyn Aled, and Llyn Moelvre, in the parish of Llansilin. The last named lake is about a mile in circumference, and is stocked with Carp and Pike.

Other lakes are Llyn Llymbran, near Nant Llyn; Llyn-y-Cwrt, and Lyn Caws, a small pool seven miles from Llan-rhaiadr-yn-Mochnant.

FLINTSHIRE.

THE *Dee*, the *Clwyd*, and the *Alyn*, are the chief rivers of this county.

Excellent Salmon and Trout may be fished for at *Bodvaris*, near the confluence of the rivers Clwyd and Wheeler, four miles from Denbigh.

Hanmer, near Ellesmere; *Hope*, on the north side of the Alyn; *Ysceiviog*, on the Clwyd, five miles from Holywell; *Rhuddlan*, on the Clwyd; *St. Asaph*, on the Elwy; *Cwm*, near Rhuddlan; *Llanvair*; *Dyserth*, near Holywell; and *Caergwrle*, on the Alyn, are the principal fishing stations of Flintshire.

There is but one lake of any importance. It is called Llyn Helig, and is situated about five miles from Holywell.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

THE chief fishing stations are---

Llanwchllyn, five miles from Bala, at the confluence of the Twrch, the Llyw, and the Dee. The whole of this neighbourhood, which is very rich in scenery, affords fine angling.

Llansaintfraid Glyndyfrdwy, three miles from Corwen. This station is on the Dee, and surrounded by numerous tributary streams, having the appearance of a great number of small scattered lakes, furnishes Salmon, Trout, Greyling, Perch, and Jack.

Havodvado, on the Trewern, is a good Trout station.

Llanbedr, on the Bychan, three miles from Harlech, and Llyn-y-Cwm Bychan, five miles from the same town, are good stations, where Trout and every kind of fish may be had in abundance.

Llandrillo, on the Dee, near Corwen, may be fished for Salmon, Trout, and Greyling.

Llangower, three miles from Bala, is finely situated, and an excellent station.

Llanvachreth, near Dolgelley, is a tributary of the Mawddach.

Arthog Chapel, three miles from Barmouth. In this neighbourhood are upwards of eleven fine streams, very near to each other, the whole of them containing Salmon, Trout, Sewin, Mullet, Eels, &c.

Hendre Llwyngwr, eleven miles south-west of Dolgelley, is a fine river, abounding with Salmon, Sewin, Trout, Eels, and Mullet.

Ffestiniog is a village situated between the rivers Dwyryd and Cynvael. Near it are two cataracts, and in the pools below there are numbers of very fine Salmon and Trout. The bottom of the fall and the river beyond are as capital spots for sport as the most enthusiastic angler could desire, the fish being present in such numbers as to give an appearance of actual life to the stream.

Llynniau Gamallt and Llyn Manod, in the vale of Ffestiniog, are much frequented by anglers; the Trout and Eels caught there being remarkably well-flavoured.

Bala Lake, called also Llyn Tegid and Pimble Mere, is the most considerable in Wales, being four miles in length, and, in some places, almost a mile in width. Its greatest depth is forty-six yards. It abounds with Pike, Perch, Trout, and Eels. Roach are found in small numbers, and a species of fish called Gwyniad, from the whiteness of their scales, in very large quantities. They resemble Whiting in flavour, and are only caught in Alpine waters. This fishery is the property of Sir W. W. Wynne. It formerly belonged to the abbots and monks of Basingwerk Abbey.

Llyn Meingul, a mile in length, and Llyn-y-Cal, a quarter of a mile long, at the foot of Cader Idris, are situated in a valley, and connected with each other by a small stream. Three mountain streams flow into it. It contains two species of fish: the large lake Trout, of eight or ten pounds weight, and the common river Trout. So excellent is the sport here, that it is not an unusual feat to take thirty or forty pounds of fish in a single day's angling.

Dol-y-Gamedd, three and a half miles from Dolgelley, and Tal-y-Llyn (Cader Idris), eight miles from the same town, are fine stations.

Llyn Bodlyn and Llyn Irddin, near Barmouth; Llyn Pair, three miles from Towyn; Llyn Conglog, eleven miles south of Bala; and Llyn-y-Gader, a mile and a half from Dolgelley, all contain fine Trout and Eels; Llyn Rhythlyn, near Trawsfynydd, is remarkable for a variety of Perch with a distorted spine. Llyn Geiriw, near Dolgelley, is connected with the Barmouth harbour by a fine river, replenished with Salmon, Trout, Sewin, Eels, &c.

All the pools in the vicinity of the Arenig mountains abound with fine fish of various kinds.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

Among the fishing stations in this shire the following may be enumerated as the principal :---

Montgomery may be ranked among the best stations in the county.

Berriew, on the junction of the Rhiw with the Severn, about four miles from Welshpool, and on the road between that town and Newtown.

Llanidloes, fourteen miles from Newtown, and the neighbourhood within a compass of about five miles. Flowing by the side of the Aberystwith road is a beautiful and well-stocked Trout stream, and another, named the Clywedog, abounding in Trout and Greyling, runs into the Severn close by. Five miles from the town, near the source of the Wye, is another station---Llangurig.

Bôdaioch, on the Tarannon, five miles from Llanidloes, is a good station, as is also Llanmerewig, four miles from Newtown.

Llanvyllin, twelve miles from Welshpool; Llandysilio, eight miles from that town; and Trewern, are admirable stations.

Llanwddyn, in the Owddyn, a tributary of the Vyrnwy, twelve miles from Llanvyllin, offers abundance of Salmon, Trout, and Greyling.

Meivod may be described as an excellent fishing station. It is situated five miles from Llanvair, at the union of the Banwy and the Avon Llanwddyn. Some smaller streams, the Brogan and the Colwyn, are in the neighbourhood.

Llangynyw, two and a half miles from Llanvair Caereinion; the junction of the Owddyn, with the Banwy below Mathraval; Llangynog, on the Tanat; and Aberavesp, three miles from Newtown, are all places of much resort.

Bettws, four miles from Newtown, is one of the most charming spots in the principality, rich in all that constitutes the charm of wood and river scenery. Here, amid Nature's choicest beauties, the angler may pursue his sport with every accessory to contribute to his enjoyment.

The stations enumerated above are principally situated upon the rivers and streams of Montgomeryshire. But, in addition to these, the county contains numerous lakes, for the most part amply supplied with Trout of various kinds, Carp, and other fish. The principal are the following :---

Llyn-y-Bugail, on the Plinlimmon mountain. The Trout in this pond are of a peculiar sort, generally called the "great lake Trout," the most powerful of fresh water fish, and often

endangering the strongest tackle. A skilful angler, however, may use tackle of moderate strength, and will find excellent sport. The ordinary bait is a common Trout from three to ten inches in length, baited on six or eight Salmon hooks, tied back to back upon strong gimp. Some of the fish caught in this lake have been known to weigh upwards of fourteen pounds. Large fish, however, are now more rarely met with than formerly, owing to the depredations of poachers. Those of smaller size, two pounds and upwards, are still abundant, as well as fine Eels. The Hog-back Trout, which has the appearance of being much deformed, is also found here.

Llyn-y-Grinwydden (the pool of the withered tree) contains only Eels and Carp.

Llyn Hir has excellent Red Trout, but is nearly dried up in the summer.

In the immediate vicinity of Llanwynog, on the Severn and Tarannon, are some beautiful lakes, surrounded by a rich mountain country; and Glyn Trevnant, at the junction of three streams near Llanidloes; Llanddinam on the banks of the Severn; and Llandrinio, at the confluence of that river with the Vyrnwy, are among the haunts most frequented by sportsmen.

The remaining lake stations, containing red and common Trout and Eels, are Llyn Mawr, or the great lake, near Llanwynog; Llyn Tarw, the bull's lake; Llyn Dŷ, the black lake to the south of Llyn Mawr; and Glas Llyn, the blue lake, at the foot of Plinlimmon.

ANGLESEY.

THE only fishing station is at Llyn Coron, in the parish of Llangwfflen. Fine Trout are caught, but they must be dressed quickly.

THE END.

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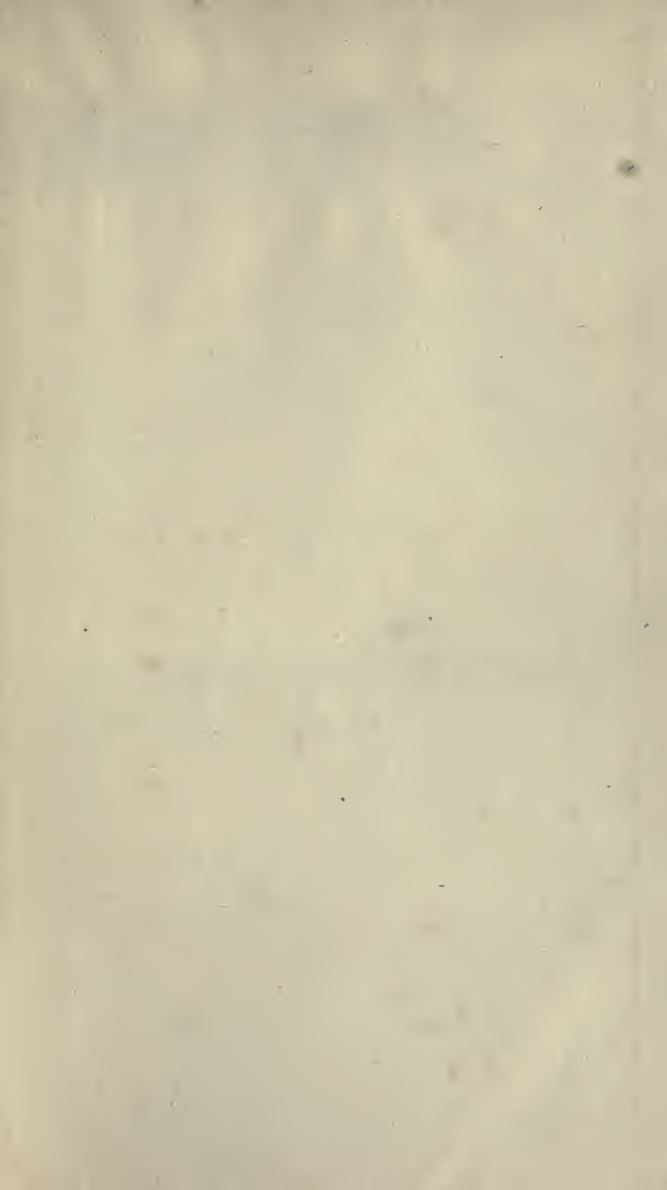
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